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U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx Announces \$996 Million Grant Agreement to Expand Green Line Light Rail Service in Boston Area



1/5/2015

**Contact: Angela Gates
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SOMERVILLE, Mass. ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx today announced a \$996 million federal grant agreement to extend Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Green Line light rail service from East Cambridge to Somerville and Medford. The extension will provide faster and more efficient travel to jobs in downtown Boston and will serve some of the region's most densely populated communities. Secretary Foxx and Acting Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan participated in a ceremony to commit the funds with Governor Deval Patrick, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Congressman Michael Capuano, representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and MBTA, and other officials.

♦ This project will put time back in the lives of commuters along this corridor, but the real story is about the potential for change this smart investment will bring for residents, ♦ said Secretary Foxx. ♦ We are proud to support projects like this one because when you connect people to more jobs, education, and medical care, you create the ladders to opportunity that strengthen families and the communities in which they live. ♦

The 4.7-mile light rail extension will extend existing MBTA Green Line service from a relocated Lechmere Station in East Cambridge to Union Square in Somerville and College Avenue in Medford. The project will serve some of the Boston region's most heavily populated areas not currently served by rail transit where 26 percent of residents do not own or have access to cars.

The Green Line extension will improve transit options for residents of Somerville and Medford by eliminating the need for bus to rail transfers and providing a one-seat transit ride to thousands of jobs in downtown Boston and along the Green Line, said Acting Federal Transit Administrator McMillan. This project will make a huge difference for thousands of residents along the corridor who need and deserve reliable access to jobs and educational opportunities throughout the Boston metropolitan area.

The U.S. Department of Transportation will contribute approximately \$996 million in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Investment Grant Program (New Starts) funding over the course of the \$2.3 billion project. State funding sources will cover the remainder.

MBTA estimates the new extended light rail line will provide approximately 37,900 daily trips when the extension opens in 2021. The project will include construction of six new stations, purchase of 24 new light rail vehicles, construction of a new vehicle maintenance facility, construction of a community bicycle and pedestrian path in Somerville, and relocation of some existing commuter rail track.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$1.33 Billion Loan for Sound Transit's Link Light Rail Extension from Seattle to Redmond



1/16/2015

**Contact: OST Press Office
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WASHINGTON ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx today announced a \$1.33 billion loan to Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit) for construction of the East Link Light Rail Extension Project. The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan will expand the popular Link system serving the Puget Sound region and help Sound Transit implement a voter approved regional capital improvement plan.

♦The East Link Project will give the people in Seattle area better access to jobs, education, and other opportunities, ♦ said Secretary Foxx. ♦This project will have a significant impact on the entire region and expand a world class transit system. We want to bring these opportunities to other parts of the country, working with Congress to develop a sustainable, long-term funding solution for transit, roads, bridges and other crucial infrastructure. ♦

The 14.5-mile light rail extension, one element of a 50-mile system, will connect some of the region's most populated and fastest-growing areas to Sound Transit's existing rail system at the International District/Chinatown Station, which runs from downtown Seattle to SeaTac Airport. According to Sound Transit, extending light rail in this corridor is expected to create 40,000 jobs in construction and future economic development, as well as increase access to growing software and biotech industries in the greater metropolitan area.

♦This project demonstrates the great things that can happen when federal, state, and local partners work together to make critical transportation infrastructure investments, ♦ said Sylvia Garcia, DOT Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs.

In addition to the \$1.33 billion TIFIA loan, DOT is contributing \$74.7 million in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds and \$14 million in TIGER V funds toward the \$4 billion East Link Project. Construction is expected to begin later in 2015, with a targeted opening date of 2023. The new line is expected to serve approximately 50,000 daily riders by 2030.

◆Rapid and reliable public transit is a gateway to greater opportunity, and this project will make a huge difference for residents traveling to major destinations such as downtown Seattle, SeaTac Airport and the University of Washington,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan.

◆Seattle continues to lead by example, bringing more 21st century transportation options to the Puget Sound region◆s growing population.◆

The Obama Administration has proposed the GROW AMERICA Act, which provides a national vision for an aging transportation network and a growing population. The GROW AMERICA Act would increase investments in public transportation to meet the urgent transit challenges facing urban, suburban and rural communities, in addition to providing support for TIFIA that can offer innovative financial assistance for infrastructure projects.

The TIFIA credit program is designed to fill market gaps and leverage substantial non-federal investments. Each dollar of federal funding can provide up to \$10 in TIFIA credit assistance and support up to \$30 in transportation infrastructure investment. Since its launch, the TIFIA program has helped 48 projects turn more than \$21 billion in U.S. Department of Transportation assistance into nearly \$76 billion in infrastructure investment across America.

###

Federal Transit Administration Announces Project Selections for Bus Efficiency Demonstration Projects



1/16/2015

Today, the Federal Transit Administration announced the selection of five innovative projects that will share \$3 million in funding through the Bus Efficiency Enhancements Research and Demonstration (BEERD) program. [Read more about this announcement on Facebook.](#)

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx Recommends \$3.2 Billion to Expand Transit Options that Improve Access to Jobs and Opportunities



2/3/2015

**Contact: Angela Gates
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WASHINGTON ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx today highlighted \$3.2 billion recommended in President Obama's Fiscal Year 2016 budget to advance the construction or completion of 25 rail, bus rapid transit (BRT), and streetcar projects in 13 states. These projects, competitively funded through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment Grant Program (CIG), would create thousands of construction and operations-related jobs and help communities expand transportation choices that offer new ladders of opportunity for residents.

♦ President Obama has laid out a bold vision for investing in 21st century transportation infrastructure that provides millions of Americans improved access to employment, education and other vital services, while also supporting the nation's growing economy, ♦ said Secretary Foxx. ♦ We are committed to ensuring that every American has access to the ladders of opportunity that lead to success ♦ and public transportation is essential to making that happen. ♦

The President's budget includes funding recommendations for 11 new transit projects that will connect thousands of residents in cities and

communities across the country with jobs and other opportunities. These include:

- The Cleveland Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line in Columbus, Ohio, which will reduce overcrowding and shorten travel times on the Central Ohio Transit Authority's second-busiest bus route, and improve connections to downtown Columbus, employment, educational and health destinations for thousands of residents who live along the corridor.
- The Mid-Coast Corridor Project in San Diego, California, which will extend light rail service to the northern community of University City, significantly improving access to educational institutions and the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in north San Diego and connecting residents to existing light rail service in downtown San Diego.
- The Provo-Orem BRT line in Utah County, Utah, which will provide more frequent, reliable bus service connecting the Brigham Young and Utah Valley university campuses to Provo and Orem, as well as employment centers within the corridor.

FTA is proud to partner with communities across the country to expand transportation options that will better meet the needs of transit riders today and accommodate expected population growth in the years ahead," said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. "These investments will help connect residents to jobs and other important opportunities, while also providing a boost to the local economy, spurring new development, revitalizing neighborhoods, and offering a much-needed alternative to traffic congestion."

The recommendations also include ongoing funding for nine transit projects that have already received construction grant agreements from FTA and are under construction. The recommendation for each of these projects includes the scheduled annual payment outlined in the grant agreement, as well as an accelerated payment of an additional \$15 million to speed project completion, potentially lower costs, and help FTA better manage the growing pipeline of projects. Existing projects are located in Boston, Charlotte, Denver, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Portland, San Francisco and San Jose.

Five additional transit projects that were recommended in previous budgets for funding but have not yet received construction grant agreements are recommended again for FY2016 funding. Those projects are located in Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland; Fort Worth, Texas; and Fresno and San Francisco.

In addition to the 25 transit projects recommended for funding, the President's budget proposal includes \$320 million for Accelerated Project Delivery and Development, a new category of funding that would provide an opportunity for other projects in the pipeline to move forward if they become ready for a construction grant prior to the end of the fiscal year. At least \$75 million of these funds would be reserved specifically to help small urban and rural communities implement new bus service with premium features.

The budget also reserves \$351 million for the growing number of requests for Core Capacity improvements. These funds are available for fixed guideway projects in transit corridors that are already at or above capacity, or are expected to be within five years.

During the Obama Administration, and as part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), FTA has successfully put in place several new measures to streamline the CIG Program — one of the largest discretionary grant programs in the federal government — so that projects move more efficiently through the pipeline, bringing the benefits of expanded transit choices to communities sooner than in the past.

FTA's [Annual Report on Funding Recommendations](#) for the FY2016 Capital Investment Grant Program, including links to individual project profiles, is available on FTA's website.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Safety Management Inspection of WMATA Operations



2/4/2015

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WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced that it is conducting a safety management inspection of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) rail and bus transit system. The purpose of the inspection is to help WMATA assess the strengths and weaknesses of the safety of operations and identify areas where the agency can further reduce risks and make other safety improvements. This is the second time FTA has undertaken a comprehensive evaluation of a transit agency's safety operations utilizing its new safety regulatory authority established by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). [Additional information on the implementation of FTA's safety program is available here.](#)

♦ Safety is a shared responsibility and our goal is to ensure that WMATA is living up to the expectation of the FTA and, perhaps most importantly, the expectations of the public, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ We will be vigilant and thorough in our safety inspection of WMATA and instruct the agency on how to close any gaps that we find. ♦

The safety management inspection is an opportunity for WMATA to test the effectiveness of a Safety Management System (SMS) approach and gather critical data to establish the agency's safety risk profile. FTA has adopted SMS, which is widely used in other transportation industries, to support comprehensive programs and performance as a means of implementing its new safety regulatory provisions. SMS focuses on organization-wide safety policy, proactive hazard management, strong safety communication between workers and management, targeted safety training, and clear responsibilities for critical safety activities. [More information on SMS is available here.](#)

FTA's safety management inspection of WMATA is separate from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation of the incident near L'Enfant Plaza. FTA will continue to support the NTSB as a party to its investigation and provide expertise and assistance wherever requested.

◆While FTA participates as a party to the NTSB investigation of the tragic incident that occurred near the L◆Enfant Plaza Metrorail station, we are also working with WMATA to conduct a comprehensive safety management inspection of its transit system,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆As the FTA implements our new safety authority, we remain committed to fostering sound policy and a strong safety culture at every transit system.◆

The WMATA safety management inspection, scheduled to begin March 2, 2015, will entail three major activities that will help develop an SMS approach:

- An SMS gap analysis, including SMS training across several levels of WMATA and a safety culture assessment survey for front-line personnel and supervisors;
- A rail safety inspection, whereby FTA will conduct an evaluation of WMATA◆s rail operations and maintenance programs to acquire the safety information and data needed to support meaningful analysis of safety risks; and
- A bus safety assessment, conducted in a similar manner to the rail safety assessment.

At the conclusion of the inspection, FTA and WMATA will summarize the results of this safety management inspection and develop a roadmap to help WMATA build a mature and effective SMS process.

Concurrent to the safety management inspection, FTA is also conducting a State Safety Oversight (SSO) audit of the Tri-State Oversight Committee (TOC) and its oversight of WMATA. FTA will issue a final report later this year.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$120 Million Loan for Improvements to Chicago Blue Line



2/5/2015

**Contact: DOT Press Office
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WASHINGTON ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx today announced the closing of a \$120 million Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan to the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) for major improvements to the Blue Line of CTA's ♦L♦ rail service, which will upgrade tracks and stations between the downtown Loop and Chicago O♦Hare International Airport. Secretary Foxx participated in a ceremony in Chicago with Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

♦Every Chicagoan knows how important it is to be able to take a convenient, reliable trip on the L to and from O♦Hare, ♦said Secretary Foxx. ♦By upgrading the Blue Line, this project will improve access to 21st century transportation for the entire region. Going forward, we want to bring these opportunities to other parts of the country, working with Congress to develop a long-term funding solution for transit, roads, bridges and other crucial infrastructure. ♦

Significant upgrades to the track, power supply, and signal system along the 19-mile stretch of the Blue Line between the Loop and O♦Hare Airport stations will reduce and eliminate ♦slow zones, ♦resulting in faster, more reliable service. The over 80,000 riders who use the Grand-O♦Hare branch

daily will also see improvements to stations along the line to enhance accessibility and comfort, from brighter lights and cleaner tunnels to new elevators and artwork.

◆The Blue Line is critical to the city of Chicago and the TIFIA loan reduces financing costs to ensure the CTA can complete this project and have a more robust capital plan going forward,◆ said Sylvia Garcia, DOT Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs.

In addition to the \$120 million TIFIA loan, the four-year, \$408.7 million Blue Line renovation (known as ◆Your New Blue◆) will be supported by \$16 million in DOT◆s Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funds awarded to CTA in 2012, with the remainder coming from state, local, and other sources. The project represents the largest upgrade of the Blue Line since it was extended to O◆Hare in 1984.

◆For residents and visitors alike, the L is a lifeline to jobs, attractions, events, and all that Chicago has to offer,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆With this project, CTA, the City of Chicago, and the State of Illinois continue to make the critical investments in modern infrastructure that riders expect and deserve.◆

The TIFIA credit program is designed to fill market gaps and leverage substantial non-federal investments. Each dollar of federal funding can provide up to \$10 in TIFIA credit assistance and support up to \$30 in transportation infrastructure investment. Since its launch, the TIFIA program has helped 49 projects turn more than \$21 billion in U.S. Department of Transportation assistance into more than \$76 billion in infrastructure investment across America.

As part of the President◆s Build America program, the Department has revamped the TIFIA website with a cleaner design, helpful tools, and interactive map that make it easier than ever to learn about how TIFIA helps projects get built using innovative financing. The new site is located at <http://www.dot.gov/tifia>.

The Obama Administration has proposed the GROW AMERICA Act to expand financing options under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA), which leverages Federal dollars by facilitating private participation in transportation projects and encouraging innovative financing mechanisms that help advance projects more quickly. The Act will provide \$6 billion over 6 years, which will result in \$60 billion of direct loans. In addition, the Act increases the accessibility of the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program by reducing the cost of obtaining a loan for short line railroads and increases the availability of Private Activity Bonds by raising the existing \$15 billion cap to \$19 billion.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$55 Million in Grants To Put More Zero-Emission Buses Into Service Across America



2/5/2015

**Contact: Angela Gates
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LOUISVILLE, Ky. ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced the selection of 10 projects that will receive a share of \$55 million in competitive grants that will help put a new generation of advanced, non-polluting transit buses on the road in communities nationwide. Funding is provided through FTA's Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Program (LoNo). [A list of all funded projects is available online.](#)

♦The Obama Administration is committed to investing in 21st century transportation solutions like these zero emission buses, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦These innovative, energy-efficient buses will help increase efficiency, improve air quality and reduce our nation's dependence on oil. ♦

FTA Senior Advisor Carolyn Flowers announced the grants in Louisville, Kentucky, home of one of the grant recipients, the Transit Authority of River City (TARC). She was joined at the announcement by TARC Executive Director J. Barry Barker and other local officials.

◆As the nation◆s population and transit ridership continue to rise, we must invest in innovative technologies that will help transit agencies like TARC expand their bus fleets and bring a new generation of energy-efficient buses to Louisville and cities and towns nationwide,◆ Flowers said. ◆These grant awards will also help create new jobs and support a growing industry of domestic manufacturers who are developing advanced technologies to power public transportation for the future.◆

Newly established under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), the LoNo program focuses on deploying the cleanest and most energy-efficient U.S.-made transit buses designed to cut carbon pollution and other traditional pollutants. Grants from the LoNo program will help transit agencies integrate more of these cutting-edge buses into their fleets.

Among the projects selected nationwide:

- TARC, the transit agency for the Louisville, Kentucky, and southern Indiana area, will receive \$3.3 million to deploy five Proterra battery-electric buses and a fast charging station. The zero-emission buses will increase TARC's fleet of battery-electric buses, and the charger will work with TARC's existing chargers to expand the area that the battery-electric buses serve.
- Sunline Transit Agency, in partnership with the Southern California Association of Governments, will receive \$9.8 million to deploy five hydrogen electric hybrid fuel cell buses. Ballard Power Systems, BAE Systems and ElDorado National will team up to build the new zero-emission buses, which will increase Sunline◆s current fleet of fuel cell buses and allow the agency to offer expanded transit service in the Coachella Valley area of Southern California.
- The Red Rose Transit Authority (RRTA) in Lancaster, PA, will receive approximately \$2.6 million to purchase 17 electric hybrid buses to replace current diesel buses that are at the end of their useful life. The new, low emission buses will be manufactured by BAE Systems and Gillig. Fourteen buses will go to RRTA, and three will go to the Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA). The two agencies, which serve Berks and Lancaster counties in Pennsylvania, recently merged their management and administrative functions to create the South Central Transit Authority. Each agency will retain the RRTA and BARTA names on their buses.

Demand for LoNo funding far exceeded available funds. FTA received 50 project proposals requesting a total of \$200 million. Priority was given to proposals that funded the incremental difference between a standard bus and a LoNo vehicle as a way to stretch procurement dollars farther;

incorporated the highest level of U.S.-made content; and demonstrated a long-term commitment to expanding green energy bus fleets.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$29 Million in Grants to Promote New Technologies to Improve Transit Safety, Emergency Response



2/12/2015

**Contact: Angela Gates
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WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation announced today that 13 organizations in nine states will receive a share of \$29 million in grant funding through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Innovative Safety, Resiliency, and All-Hazards Emergency Response and Recovery Demonstration funding opportunity. The grants will support cutting-edge developments in mass transit, utilizing state-of-the-art technology to help transit agencies improve track worker and passenger safety, better withstand natural disasters, and respond more effectively to emergencies. [A list of selected projects is available online.](#)

♦ Safety is our highest priority at DOT, and we are committed to ensuring that public transportation remains one of the safest ways to travel in the United States, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ These grants will help transit agencies utilize the latest, most innovative technologies available to reduce collisions, protect track workers, improve operations during emergencies and natural disasters, and maintain equipment and infrastructure. ♦

Examples of the types of projects selected include track intrusion detection systems that will alert rail operators and transit officials to stop trains if a person or object is detected on the track; prototype equipment such as front-end bumpers for light rail vehicles that operate in mixed traffic to minimize the impact of collisions; and planning tools to help transit agencies protect equipment and infrastructure and deploy services during emergencies and natural disasters.

♦ FTA is proud to support cutting-edge technologies that have the potential to significantly improve transit safety and operations in the years ahead, ♦ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ♦ It is critical that we continue to invest in 21st century systems that will keep transit riders and workers safe, and offer places like New Jersey and New Orleans the tools they need to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies and natural disasters. ♦

Among the projects selected nationwide:

- The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will receive approximately \$1.7 million to install and test a radar-based system of detecting track intrusions. The new system will alert rail operators and transit officials when people or objects are detected on the track, helping to avoid collisions.
- The Minnesota Valley Transit Authority will receive approximately \$1.8 million to equip additional buses in its Bus Rapid Transit and express bus fleets with GPS-based technology to improve safety and bus service within narrow shoulder lanes along highly congested corridors in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. The technology will provide lane keeping information, lane departure warnings, and collision avoidance advisories to bus operators in various weather and road conditions.
- The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ Transit) will receive \$843,750 to develop an advanced forecast and observation system that can provide real-time information on the potential risk and magnitude of flooding before and during significant storm surge events. The system will help inform decision making in order to devote resources to where they are most needed and preserve critical infrastructure.
- The Center for Transportation and the Environment, headquartered in Atlanta, GA, will receive \$995,098 to develop, evaluate and plan the deployment of a Bus Exportable Power System that would allow existing transit buses to export power using their hybrid propulsion systems. The system essentially would transform hybrid buses into mobile power generators for use during all-hazards emergency response and recovery.

Demand for research demonstration funding far exceeded available funds. FTA received 72 proposals requesting approximately \$160 million. Eligible applicants included public transportation providers, state and local governments, private and non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, and technical and community colleges.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx Calls for Transportation Investment During Visit to Durham, NC



2/19/2015

**Contact: Angela Gates
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DURHAM, N.C. ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx was joined today by Congressman G.K. Butterfield and Durham Mayor William V. ♦Bill♦ Bell at an event in downtown Durham to highlight the proposed Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project and the benefits that increased investment in transportation and infrastructure would bring to communities across the country. The Secretary♦s visit is part of a four-day, five state bus tour, *The GROW AMERICA Express*, highlighting the importance of investing in America♦s infrastructure and to encourage Congress to act on a long-term transportation bill.

♦Projects like the Durham-Orange Light Rail Line will connect Americans to opportunity by improving access to jobs and education while helping to spur economic development in growing communities like Durham, Chapel Hill and across the country,♦ said Secretary Foxx. ♦I♦m traveling throughout the Southeast this week to highlight projects like this one that show if we invest in a 21st century transportation system, we can grow jobs and the economy ♦ and create a brighter tomorrow for future generations.♦

The planned 17.1-mile light rail line would connect the City of Durham and the Town of Chapel Hill, providing a critical link between two central business districts, as well as large medical facilities and universities that serve as major employers for the region.

Triangle Transit is currently conducting planning and environmental review activities for the light rail line. The agency expects to seek \$910.3 million in federal funding from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment Grant Program toward the estimated total project cost of \$1.8 billion.

◆This new light rail line will make a huge difference for thousands of students and residents traveling to the renowned medical, educational and cultural institutions in the region,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆We need Congress to pass a long-term transportation bill that will make more projects like these a reality.◆

On February 2, the Obama Administration announced a plan to address the infrastructure deficit with a \$478 billion, six-year surface transportation reauthorization proposal, building on the the GROW AMERICA Act, which the Administration first released last year. The plan makes critical investments in infrastructure needed to promote long-term economic growth, enhance safety and efficiency, and support jobs for the 21st century.

The need for these investments is clear. Earlier this month, U.S. DOT released a landmark study, ◆[Beyond Traffic](#)◆ that looked at the trends and choices facing American transportation over the next three decades. These included a rapidly growing population, increasing freight volume, demographic shifts in rural and urban areas, and a transportation system that◆s facing more frequent extreme weather events. A key takeaway of the study was that we need keep investing in transportation for the sake of future generations, and the proposals included in GROW AMERICA would allow us to do just that.

According to the study, Durham resides within the Piedmont Atlantic megaregion which is projected to experience a 78 percent increase in population growth between 2010 and 2050.

The GROW AMERICA Express will include visits to universities, manufacturers, bridges, freight facilities, and highway projects in an effort to raise awareness of America◆s infrastructure deficit. Secretary Foxx will visit with students, business leaders, transportation stakeholders, and community residents, to discuss the projects that work, projects that are needed, and to ask them to commit to standing up for a future with an American transportation system that is second-to-none.

To follow the Secretary's tour, visit <http://www.dot.gov/grow-america>.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx Announces Proposed Rule to Increase State Safety Oversight of Rail Transit Systems



2/20/2015

Contact: Steve Kulm

202-366-9260

WASHINGTON ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced today at Washington's Union Station a [proposed rule \(PDF\)](#) to increase oversight responsibilities of State Safety Oversight Agencies (SSOAs) by replacing the existing outdated regulatory framework with one designed to better evaluate the effectiveness of a rail transit agency's system safety program. The Secretary's visit was the last stop on his four-day, five state *GROW AMERICA Express* bus tour highlighting the importance of investing in America's infrastructure and to encourage Congress to act on a long-term transportation bill.

Reflecting new statutory safety authority established by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), the proposed rule issued by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) would give states more resources to increase oversight over rail transit systems. The proposed rule would require adoption and enforcement of federal and state safety laws, and require SSOAs to be financially and legally independent of the rail transit systems they oversee.

In addition, FTA would enhance its authority to review and approve each State Safety Oversight (SSO) program, including triennial audits, review of

annual status reports, and certification of SSOAs. If states are not meeting the statutory criteria, FTA may withhold federal funds until an SSO program is certified. Public comments on the proposed rule will be accepted for sixty days after its publication in the Federal Register.

◆We must improve, modernize and transform rail transit safety oversight to provide the increased level of safety expected by the millions of passengers who use rail transit every day,◆ said Secretary Foxx. ◆Rail transit is a safe travel option, but we have an obligation and opportunity to make it even safer.◆

◆FTA appreciates the continued cooperation and engagement of our state and rail transit industry partners as we take this major step forward toward a new safety regulatory framework,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆We drafted the proposed rule to ensure it allows for the flexibility and scalability needed to provide effective safety benefits for passengers and employees of transit agencies of all sizes and operating environments.◆

On February 2, the Obama Administration announced a plan to address the infrastructure deficit with a \$478 billion, six-year surface transportation reauthorization proposal, building on the GROW AMERICA Act, which the Administration first released last year. The plan makes critical investments in infrastructure needed to promote long-term economic growth, enhance safety and efficiency, and support jobs for the 21st century.

The need for these investments is clear. Earlier this month, U.S. DOT released a landmark study, ◆[Beyond Traffic](#)◆ that looked at the trends and choices facing American transportation over the next three decades. These included a rapidly growing population, increasing freight volume, demographic shifts in rural and urban areas, and a transportation system that◆s facing more frequent extreme weather events. A key takeaway of the study was that we need to keep investing in transportation for the sake of future generations, and the proposals included in GROW AMERICA would allow us to do just that.

The proposed SSO rule reflects the flexible, scalable principles of [Safety Management Systems](#) that focus on organization-wide safety policy, proactive hazard identification and risk informed decision-making as part of risk management, safety assurance, and safety promotion (safety training and communications).

Also this week, FTA announced that it will publish a final [interim safety certification training program \(PDF\)](#) designed to enhance the technical competencies and capabilities of individuals responsible for direct safety oversight of rail transit systems at agency, state and federal levels; and of

individuals who conduct safety audits of these systems. The interim training program becomes effective ninety days from its publication in the Federal Register. FTA plans to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to establish the permanent provisions later this year.

###

U.S. Transportation Department Proposes Initiatives to Give Local Workers a Boost in Federal Investments



3/3/2015

Questions and Answers on Contract Initiatives

WASHINGTON ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced today a [proposal for a new pilot program](#) that will explore new ways to make it easier for states and cities to hire local residents for transportation projects. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and Birmingham Mayor William Bell joined the Secretary for the announcement.

♦ Local workers often have the greatest stake in local road and transit projects, but federal rules make it hard for communities to ensure that their workers reap some of the benefits and that's just not right, ♦ said Secretary Foxx. ♦ We want to create ladders of opportunities for them, as well as for low-income workers and veterans, to help put some of the transportation investments we make in the hands of those who would benefit most. ♦

♦ When we invest in L.A. infrastructure, we want to maximize our investment in L.A. jobs, and this provides us with a new way forward to boost our local economy as we cut traffic and fight smog, ♦ said Mayor Garcetti. ♦ I thank Secretary Foxx for his commitment to strengthening my city and communities across the nation. ♦

Federal contracting rules have traditionally prohibited the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) from allowing recipients to use contract provisions that do not directly relate to the performance of work but further social or economic goals, functionally prohibiting local hire provisions. The pilot program announced today will allow both agencies to test and evaluate the merits of such provisions and whether the existing competitive bidding process can be improved.

◆ Transportation plays a critical role in connecting Americans and communities to economic opportunity, ◆ said Greg Nadeau, Deputy Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. ◆ This measure will go a long way to bridging the gap between the qualified workers who need work and projects that need them. ◆

◆ The investments we make in local communities are truly transformational, ◆ said Therese McMillan, Acting Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration. ◆ These investments should not only change the landscape of a community, but it should also transform and improve the lives of its residents too. ◆

The year-long pilot is proposed as an experiment under FHWA's ◆ Special Experimental Project No. 14 (SEP-14) and FTA experimental authorities, provisions made possible by Congress to allow the agencies leeway in finding new and more effective means of building, maintaining and managing federal transportation projects.

The Department published a related proposal in the Federal Register to modify the ◆ common grant ◆ rule geographic preference provision applied to USDOT programs. The public is encouraged to review it and submit comments to the Comment Docket ([Link](#)). The comment period will close 30 days from the date of publication in the Federal Register.

###

U.S. DOT Announces Reasonable Modification Rule to Improve Access to Public Transportation for Individuals with Disabilities



3/13/2015

**Contact: Steven Kulm
202-366-9260**

WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation announced today the publication of a [Final Rule](#) clarifying that public transportation providers are required to make reasonable modifications to their policies, practices and procedures to avoid discrimination and ensure programs and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

♦ Ensuring equal access to public transportation enables individuals with disabilities to have access to jobs, school, medical care and a better quality of life, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ Making reasonable modifications to transit services helps bring everyone on the path to access the ladders of opportunities that all Americans strive for. ♦

The Final Rule applies to public entities providing fixed route, dial-a-ride and complementary paratransit services. It establishes that an individual's ♦ disability cannot preclude a public transportation entity from providing full access to its service except where doing so would fundamentally alter the service. It also provides 27 examples of what a reasonable modification is and is not, and clarifies the definition of origin-to-destination service.

◆Today◆s rule simply codifies and clarifies what many in the transit community are already doing to accommodate their riders who have disabilities,◆ said Acting Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆We are making sure that reasonable modifications are part of transit provider policies and more uniformly applied while keeping decision-making in their hands.◆

Further, the Final Rule brings clarity to the issue of origin-to-destination policy which has had varied interpretations and was unevenly applied throughout the nation. The new rule requires paratransit providers that primarily operate curb-to-curb service to make reasonable modifications for those passengers who need assistance beyond the curb so that they can use the service. A significant number of paratransit operators already follow such an origin-to-destination policy.

Public transportation entities receiving federal financial assistance have long had the obligation to provide reasonable modifications under various laws and regulations. This Final Rule revises and fills identified gaps in the DOT◆s regulations. It becomes effective on July 13, 2015.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$26.6 million for Jacksonville Bus Rapid Transit North Corridor Project



3/16/2015

**Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669**

WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced the award of approximately \$26.6 million in federal grant funds for the Jacksonville Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) North Corridor Project, which will provide more frequent and faster bus service to attract new riders and provide a needed transportation option in a heavily transit-dependent region.

♦ Innovative projects like Jacksonville's North Corridor BRT project can offer people the ladders to join the middle class, provide for their families, and achieve a better quality of life, ♦ said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx. ♦ This project further highlights how we need a long-term transportation bill that will guarantee that the residents in Jacksonville, and those across the country, continue to have access to convenient, reliable, and efficient transportation options that will keep our economy growing and future generations of Americans moving. ♦

The 9.4-mile North Corridor line is the second segment of a five-phased First Coast Flyer BRT system planned for the Jacksonville area. It will connect to the first BRT line in downtown Jacksonville now under construction and extend north to Interstate 295. The new service will also

connect to the future Southeast Corridor and serve major employment centers, Florida State College at Jacksonville, UF Health Jacksonville, parks and regional shopping centers.

◆By expanding its BRT system, Jacksonville is building its transit future for a fast growing population and making a smart investment to support local and regional economic development,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆The North Corridor project also will make a huge difference for the majority of local residents along the corridor who do not have access to automobiles and rely heavily on public transportation to get to work, school, medical care and other vital services.◆

The FTA is contributing 80 percent of the \$33.2 million total cost of the North Corridor project, including \$20.2 million from FTA◆s Small Starts Capital Investment Grant Program and \$6.4 million in FTA Bus and Bus Facility funds. The remaining project costs are being covered by the Florida Department of Transportation and the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA).

The North Corridor project will have 18 stations, transit signal priority, real-time passenger information and off-board fare collection. It also will include the construction of a park-and-ride lot and the procurement of eight energy efficient compressed natural gas (CNG) buses.

Investments like this are vital to meet the transportation needs of the nation and to support local economic development. Under the Administration◆s [GROW AMERICA Act](#), a comprehensive multi-year program to fund infrastructure improvements, \$115 billion is identified for investment in transit systems. The proposal significantly increases transit spending which will enable the expansion of new projects that improve connectivity to jobs, educational and other opportunities.

In addition, U.S. DOT recently released a landmark study, ◆[Beyond Traffic](#)◆ that looked at the trends and choices facing American transportation over the next three decades. These included a rapidly growing population, demographic and migratory shifts in rural and urban areas, increasing freight volume, innovations to enhance safety and efficiency, and a transportation system that◆s facing more frequent extreme weather events. A key takeaway of the study is that more investment in transportation is needed for the sake of future generations, and the proposals included in GROW AMERICA support that goal.

The JTA is also seeking Capital Investment Grant program funds for the next several planned BRT segments◆the 11.1-mile Southeast Corridor, the 18.5-mile East Corridor, and the 12.9-mile Southwest Corridor projects. JTA

estimates that the entire BRT system will cover 57 miles and cost approximately \$134.1 million.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Celebrates Opening of Connecticut's First Bus Rapid Transit System



3/27/2015

Contact: Valerie Berton

202-366-2581 | 202-308-2020

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Acting Federal Transit Administrator (FTA) Therese McMillan today attended the grand opening of a new bus rapid transit (BRT) system in Hartford County that will significantly improve travel times for thousands of residents in the Connecticut capital corridor. The new BRT system, called CTfastrak, will bypass traffic on one of the region's most congested corridors, providing fast, convenient connections to employment centers, schools, and cultural destinations in downtown Hartford, New Britain and surrounding communities.

♦ Public transportation projects like the new CTfastrak transit system is the latest example of how investing in public transportation relieves congestion and provides better access to jobs and services ♦ now and into the future, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ Residents in central Connecticut, and across the country, will benefit from improved mobility and access to jobs provided by well-designed and implemented transit systems like this new BRT line. ♦

Secretary Foxx noted that the CTfastrak opening comes amid a 20-year trend of public transit expansion and a 25 percent increase in transit

ridership, a fact that underscores the concerns outlined in [*Beyond Traffic*](#), a recent report released by USDOT. *Beyond Traffic* examines the trends and choices facing America's transportation infrastructure over the next three decades, including a rapidly growing population, increasing freight volume, demographic shifts in rural and urban areas, and a transportation system that's facing more frequent extreme weather events. Increased gridlock nationwide can be expected unless changes are made in the near-term.

The new CTfastrak buses will operate in an exclusive lane that is closed to vehicular traffic, providing an attractive option for riders to avoid congestion on traffic-prone I-84. The 9.4-mile route, which connects downtown Hartford and New Britain, is also expected to spur transit-related development with new housing and commercial development already underway.

Bus rapid transit systems like CTfastrak bring fast, high-frequency service for riders and serve as a catalyst for economic development, said Federal Transit Acting Administrator McMillan. We're happy to help bring new transit options to central Connecticut's growing population and the thousands of new bus riders who are expected to use the new service to connect to jobs, education, businesses and other destinations in New Britain, Newington and Hartford.

McMillan participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with U.S. Representatives John Larson and Elizabeth Esty, Governor Dannel Malloy, State Transportation Commissioner James Redeker, and other state and local officials.

State-of-the-art BRT systems that run in dedicated lanes, like CTfastrak, are fast and efficient primarily because they do not compete with traffic. Construction of the CTfastrak guideway began in May 2012 and was completed earlier this year. Approximately 4,000 jobs were created during construction, which included 10 new stations and a five-mile multi-use trail alongside the busway.

CTfastrak augments the state's CT Transit bus system, which has seen ridership increase by two million passengers in the last two years. With the opening of CTfastrak, bus ridership in the corridor is expected to double from current daily ridership of about 8,000 by 2030. The rapid bus will run every 7 minutes during rush hour and every 12 minutes during off-peak times. By linking with Amtrak in Hartford, CTfastrak will enable passengers to connect from local transit to other East Coast cities.

The U.S. Department of Transportation contributed \$454.6 million toward the \$567 million CTfastrak project. Federal funds include \$275.3 million through FTA's Capital Investment Grant (New Starts) Program, \$114.2

from the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Highway Program, and \$65.1 million in other FTA funds.

###

Federal Transit Acting Administrator McMillan Joins Transportation Supporters in Philadelphia for Stand Up for Transportation Day



4/9/2015

Contact: Valerie Berton

(202) 366-2581 | (202) 308-2020

PHILADELPHIA ♦ U.S. Department of Transportation's Acting Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan, along with transportation infrastructure supporters across the country, today highlighted the need for long-term transportation funding to support a robust and sustainable transportation system. McMillan participated in Philadelphia's Stand Up for Transportation rally at Dilworth Park outside City Hall, one of dozens of events held across the country detailing the importance of investing in the nation's transportation infrastructure.

♦The lack of a long-term federal funding bill results in tremendous uncertainty for local transportation projects that otherwise would support millions of American jobs repairing and modernizing our nation's roads, rails and transit systems, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦The GROW AMERICA Act would provide six years of funding certainty, increased investment in infrastructure, and policies that streamline our processes to ensure communities enjoy the benefits of transportation improvements. ♦

Joining Acting Administrator McMillan were Chairman Bill Shuster, other Congressional representatives from Pennsylvania, former Pennsylvania

Governor Edward G. Rendell, and Acting Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation Leslie Richards. McMillan voiced support for the GROW AMERICA Act, which would help transit agencies across the country maintain and modernize their systems. She pointed out that about half of Americans lack access to safe and reliable transit and praised local leaders who oversaw renovations at Dilworth Park in 2012 to connect four transit modes as an example of effective transportation planning.

◆ In the next 30 years, the U.S. will be home to 70 million more people, and public transit will provide a critical link for them to get to work, school, medical care and other vital services,◆ McMillan said. ◆ With a long-term transportation bill, we will not just be filling potholes. We will foster better transit systems and transportation innovation in ways we may not have thought possible just a few years ago.◆

The GROW AMERICA Act would increase the federal funding commitment to transit by over 70 percent, part of which would address an estimated \$86 billion backlog ◆ and growing ◆ in transit system maintenance and repair needs. The funds also would aid local transit agencies in expanding services to provide better connections for riders in cities, small towns, suburbs and rural areas and in implementing new technologies to serve predicted increases in ridership. According to the [American Road and Transportation Builders Association](#), four states have canceled or delayed \$780 million in transportation improvement projects and another nine ◆ including Pennsylvania ◆ say over \$1.8 billion is at risk because of continued uncertainty over whether Congress will take action soon to fix the ailing Highway Trust Fund (HTF).

The Philadelphia rally was attended by hundreds of transportation supporters, including representatives from labor, business and environmental groups, gathered on a public square that received \$15 million in federal transportation funding through the Department◆s Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. The formerly dilapidated plaza in front of historic City Hall now links Philadelphia◆s extensive network of transit lines, including subway trolley, regional rail and buses, in a pedestrian-friendly setting.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Celebrates Introduction of New Rail Cars to Enhance Safety, Reliability on the D.C. Metrorail System



4/13/2015

**Contact: Steven Taubenkibel
202-366-0431**

ARLINGTON, Va. ♦ U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary Victor Mendez and Federal Transit Acting Administrator Therese McMillan were in Arlington, Va., today for the launch of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) new state-of-the-art 7000-series rail cars for the Metrorail system. The new cars will belong to a fleet of more than 500 new rail cars, which are designed to provide a safer, more comfortable ride for millions of passengers and expand the Metrorail system's capacity overall.

♦ Safety is our number one priority, and WMATA's 7000-series rail cars are specifically designed to move hundreds of thousands of daily riders as safely as possible as they travel to work, school, doctor's appointments and other destinations, ♦ said Deputy Secretary Mendez.

The rail cars will replace all 300 of the Metrorail 1000-series cars that have been in service for nearly 40 years, fulfilling a key safety recommendation from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) following the fatal Metrorail collision at Fort Totten Station in June 2009, which involved some of those cars. The WMATA accident, along with other incidents elsewhere in the United States spurred the Obama Administration to seek and ultimately secure new federal safety oversight authority.

The new 7000-series rail cars will eventually be deployed throughout Metrorail's entire fleet, including the new Silver Line as it ultimately expands to serve Dulles International Airport. Secretary Foxx traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska last year, and visited the Kawasaki plant where the new rail cars were built.

♦ The time has arrived to retire the oldest, 1000-series rail cars in the Metrorail fleet and replace them with a new generation of safer vehicles, ♦ said FTA Acting Administrator McMillan.

At today's event, Deputy Secretary Mendez and Acting Administrator McMillan were joined by Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, and other state and local officials.

Investments like the 7000-series rail cars are vital to meet the transportation needs of the nation and to support local economic development. Under the Administration's [GROW AMERICA Act](#), a comprehensive multi-year program to fund infrastructure improvements, \$115 billion is identified for investment in transit systems. The proposal significantly increases transit spending, which will enable the expansion of new projects that improve connectivity to jobs, educational and other opportunities.

FTA has provided over \$80 million in funding to date, specifically to help fund the replacement of the 1000-series rail cars. In addition, FTA has also contributed over \$54 million for 64 new rail cars through the Capital Investment Grant Program (New Starts), as part of a \$900 million construction grant agreement with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for Phase 1 of the Metrorail Silver Line extension project.

###

Acting Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan Joins Orlando Officials to Break Ground on the City's Third Bus Rapid Transit Line



5/14/2015

**Contact: Steven Taubenkibel
202-366-0431**

ORLANDO, Fla. ♦ Acting Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan today participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority LYNX LYMMO bus rapid transit (BRT) line that will improve transit options and connect riders to existing transit services throughout the Orlando region. Acting Administrator McMillan was joined by Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and Orlando LYNX CEO John Lewis.

♦ Innovative projects like Orlando's LYMMO BRT service can offer people the opportunity to connect to more jobs, education, medical care, and achieve a better quality of life, ♦ said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx. ♦ We're proud to celebrate this milestone, but we must do more. We are asking Congress to pass a long-term transportation bill, like the GROW AMERICA Act, that will help Orlando and other communities in Florida and around the country enhance their transportation infrastructure in the years ahead. ♦

Investments like bus rapid transit are vital to meet the transportation needs of the nation and to support local economic development. Under the Administration's [GROW AMERICA Act](#), a comprehensive multi-year

program to fund infrastructure improvements, \$115 billion is identified for investment in transit systems. The proposal, which increases transit spending by 76 percent, will enable the expansion of new projects that improve connectivity to jobs, education and other opportunities.

◆Orlando residents already know that BRT done right is an effective way to reduce congestion, shorten commutes and improve access to downtown,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator McMillan. ◆We◆re proud to support the city◆s effort to bring a third BRT line to the Parramore community that will result in a reliable and desirable ride for commuters, students, seniors, and those who depend on transit to get around.◆

The third new BRT line will expand existing LYMMO service to connect the Parramore and Callahan neighborhoods to the Central Business District, SunRail commuter rail and other transit services at LYNX Central station, the U.S. Courthouse, the Amway Center and other popular destinations.

Acting Administrator McMillan also noted that the congestion in the Orlando area reaffirms the concerns outlined in [Beyond Traffic](#), a recent report released by the Department. Beyond Traffic examines the trends and choices facing America◆s transportation infrastructure over the next three decades, including a rapidly growing population, increasing freight volume, demographic shifts in rural and urban areas, and a transportation system that◆s facing more frequent extreme weather events. Increased gridlock nationwide can be expected unless changes are made in the near-term.

The Department is providing approximately \$13 million in Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funding for construction of the third BRT line. The city is providing \$3.7 million toward the \$16.7 million project. DOT provided a total of \$18.5 million for the previous two BRT lines that opened in 1997 and 2014.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx Tours Los Angeles Bus Facility, Highlights Need for Continued Transportation Investment



5/15/2015

**Contact: Angela Gates
(202) 366-3669**

LOS ANGELES ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx was in Los Angeles today to tour the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority ♦s (LACMTA) Division 13 Bus Maintenance and Operations Facility, a new, state-of-the-art facility that will significantly improve bus service in the heart of the city.

Secretary Foxx was joined by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, LACMTA CEO Phillip Washington and local officials to discuss the importance of investing in public transportation projects that create ladders of opportunity for local residents. Secretary Foxx has been touring projects throughout the country to highlight our nation ♦s third annual Infrastructure Week, which brings together thousands of stakeholders across the country to highlight the importance of investing in America ♦s infrastructure, and to encourage Congress to act on a long-term transportation bill.

♦Public transportation provides critical support to hardworking Americans trying to access jobs, medical care, education and other vital services, ♦ said Secretary Foxx. ♦We must continue to invest in our nation ♦s transportation infrastructure to ensure safe and reliable travel options that meet the needs of today ♦s riders, as well as for future generations. ♦

Earlier this year, the Obama Administration announced a plan to address the infrastructure deficit with a \$478 billion, six-year surface transportation reauthorization proposal ♦ the GROW AMERICA Act. The plan makes critical investments in infrastructure needed to promote long-term economic growth, enhance safety and efficiency, and support jobs for the 21st century. Under the Act, California would receive \$6.2 billion for highway and transit projects.

In addition, U.S. DOT released a landmark study earlier this year, titled ♦Beyond Traffic, ♦ that looked at the trends and choices facing American transportation over the next three decades. These included a rapidly growing population, demographic and migratory shifts in rural and urban areas, increasing freight volume, innovations to enhance safety and efficiency, and a transportation system that ♦s facing more frequent extreme weather events. According to the report, on average, Americans

spent 40 hours per week stuck in traffic at an estimated annual loss of approximately \$120 billion. A key takeaway of the study is that more investment in transportation is needed for the sake of future generations, and the proposals included in GROW AMERICA support that goal.

◆With continued transit ridership and population growth expected in greater Los Angeles in the years ahead, additional transportation investments are essential,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆Bus service is an important transit option for millions of Angelinos who need and deserve 21st century transportation alternatives to driving in traffic.◆

LACMTA◆s Division 13 bus facility will serve as a bus maintenance, operations and service facility in downtown Los Angeles, and will accommodate 200 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses and fueling equipment. The facility, which incorporates many sustainable design features, is currently under construction and expected to open this fall.

The U.S. Department of Transportation◆s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) contributed \$53.25 million in federal funding toward the \$120 million total project cost.

Investments like LACMTA◆s new bus facility are vital to meet the transportation needs of the nation and to support local economic development.

###

FTA Finds Serious Safety Lapses at WMATA, Implements NTSB Recommendation to Improve Subway Tunnel Safety



6/17/2015

Contact: Steve Kulm

202-366-9260

WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently conducted an [inspection](#) of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) rail and bus systems that identified organizational deficiencies and operational concerns that significantly limit WMATA's ability to recognize and resolve safety issues.

FTA found serious safety lapses in Metrorail's Rail Operations Control Center, which schedules and conducts maintenance work, manages abnormal and emergency events, and ensures the safety of trains and personnel on the right-of-way. In key areas, WMATA is not effectively balancing safety-critical operations and maintenance activities with the demand for passenger service.

♦ These are serious findings that strongly indicate that, despite gains made since the Fort Totten accident, WMATA's safety program is inadequate, ♦ said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx. ♦ WMATA management, its board of directors and its state safety oversight agency must work together to address FTA's required actions, because the safety of passengers and personnel must be the top priority. ♦

FTA conducted the Safety Management Inspection (SMI) as part of its new safety authority established by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) in 2012. The SMI evaluated WMATA's operations and maintenance programs, safety management capabilities, and organizational structures to assess compliance with its own procedures and rules, existing federal regulations and FTA Safety Advisories to ensure safety for its passengers, employees and system infrastructure. The SMI report includes 54 safety findings: 44 for Metrorail and 10 for Metrobus.

FTA is issuing a [Safety Directive](#) to WMATA identifying required actions for each of the safety findings and is requesting the WMATA Board to determine what changes to its Fiscal Year 2016 budget may be necessary to effectively implement the corrective actions.

“WMATA must commit to more employee safety training, increased track time for maintenance work, and a greater effort at identifying and reducing safety risks to deliver the level of safety its passengers and employees deserve,” said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan.

FTA Action on NTSB Recommendation

Also today, FTA announced it is taking action to improve subway tunnel safety nationwide in response to an urgent recommendation from the National Transportation Safety Board following the January 12, 2015 WMATA Metrorail incident of smoke in a tunnel near L'Enfant Plaza.

FTA is [directing](#) State Safety Oversight Agencies (SSOAs) with jurisdiction over rail transit agencies to conduct audits to assess and inspect subway tunnel ventilation systems. After the SSOAs complete and return the audits, FTA will analyze the data to determine potential future rulemaking and safety guidance to the rail transit industry.

“FTA takes NTSB recommendations seriously, and is taking quick action,” said McMillan. “This assessment will provide an opportunity to develop appropriate improvements for the benefits of rail transit riders nationwide.”

Other FTA Actions Related to WMATA

- FTA performed a [Safety Management System \(SMS\) Gap Analysis](#) to evaluate WMATA's approach to safety management practices and found it needs to further advance its SMS efforts.
- FTA performed a regularly scheduled [audit](#) of the Tri-State Oversight Committee (TOC), the partnership between Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia responsible for managing the federally required State Safety Oversight (SSO) Program for WMATA Metrorail.

The audit found the TOC partners must improve coordination on several issues, such as implementing new legal and financial requirements for a stronger SSO program required by MAP-21.

###

New Proposed Rule Would Improve Testing the Safety, Reliability of New Transit Buses



6/23/2015

**Contact: Ben Lockshin
202-366-8061**

WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) that would improve the process for testing the safety and reliability of new transit buses funded with federal dollars. The proposed rule would establish minimum performance standards, a new pass-fail grading system for bus testing, and a weighted scoring process that would better assist local transit agencies in purchasing an appropriate vehicle.

In addition, the proposed rule would clarify and improve verification of two Departmental regulations: the Buy America requirements that have stimulated American manufacturing of transit vehicles, components and related technology; and the rules that support businesses owned by women and minorities (Disadvantaged Business Enterprises) throughout the supply chain.

♦ Millions of riders depend on transit buses every day to get to work, school, healthcare, and home again, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ While buses are already a very safe mode of travel, transit customers deserve to know that the buses they ride on are as safe and reliable as possible. ♦

The proposed rule would require new buses meet minimum thresholds in structural integrity, safety, maintainability, reliability, fuel economy, emissions, noise, and performance. The rule would refine and streamline the existing standardized procedures used by the FTA Bus Testing Facility at Pennsylvania State University's Larson Transportation Institute in Altoona, Pa.

◆When the FTA helps local transit agencies purchase new buses, it is imperative that those vehicles are a high-quality investment,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆This proposed rule would help ensure buses are long lasting and low maintenance, saving transit agencies valuable resources and reducing the frustrating delays that riders endure when buses have to be removed from service unexpectedly.◆

The proposed bus testing rule was developed following extensive outreach to FTA's partners across the transit industry, including transit vehicle manufacturers, component suppliers, public transit agencies, and state departments of transportation. Public outreach efforts will continue throughout the comment period to solicit feedback from these and other stakeholders.

The proposed rule was directed by Congress in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). As FTA continues to implement its statutory safety authority under MAP-21, the proposed bus testing rule will be coordinated with FTA's other safety initiatives.

###

FTA Seeks Nominations for Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS)



7/10/2015

Contact: Steve Kulm

202-366-9260

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently published a Federal Register [notice](#) seeking nominations for up to eight representatives from the public transportation safety community for TRACS membership. TRACS was chartered in 2009 by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation for the purpose of providing a forum for the development, consideration, and communication of information regarding public transit safety. Nominees should be knowledgeable of trends or issues related to rail transit and bus transit safety, and will be evaluated on factors including leadership and organizational skills, geographic representation, staff diversity, and the overall balance of industry representation. Appointments are for two-year terms and applications should be submitted by August 31, 2015.

###

Federal Transit Administration Highlights Public Transportation Accessibility on 25th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act



7/23/2015

**Contact: Valerie Berton
202-366-2581**

BETHESDA, Md. ♦ Today, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Acting Administrator Therese McMillan was at a bus stop just north of Bethesda, Maryland to highlight the success of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on the landmark legislation's 25th anniversary. The Acting Administrator spoke about the great advances that have been made since the Act was passed, most notably that nationwide, 99.8 percent of transit buses are accessible to and usable by people with disabilities, thanks to features like lifts and ramps.

♦ The Obama Administration is committed to ensuring that everyone, including people with disabilities, can fully access the transportation services they need to get to work, to school and to live their lives, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ I commend the public transportation industry for its hard work to make subways, light rail, buses and other transit services increasingly accessible. ♦

In spite of the large percentage of facilities that are compliant, many bus stops, typically maintained by local government agencies, remain a challenge to accessibility. To address that, Maryland's Montgomery County embarked on a comprehensive rehabilitation program of the

county's 5,340 stops. At the North Bethesda bus stop today, McMillan and Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett highlighted how the county's \$11 million Bus Stop Improvement Program brought the county's stops into ADA compliance. Since 2006, the county has improved safety and increased accessibility at 89 percent of its bus stops, in part with ADA-accessible paths for passengers to get to and from bus stops.

◆We congratulate Montgomery County for improving its bus system, which provides a lifeline to people who don't drive,◆ McMillan said. ◆We know that many people with disabilities travel by bus, and we want to be sure that they can travel anywhere public transportation is offered across the country.◆

People with disabilities are relying increasingly on buses to participate in daily activities rather than paratransit. A 2013 Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) [report](#) studied seven transit systems across the country and found that ridership on fixed-route transit by persons with disabilities was two to six times greater than ridership on paratransit. A TCRP nationwide survey of people with disabilities found that one-third of respondents indicated they wanted to take public transportation, specifically fixed-route buses.

All rail transit systems built since 1990, many of them light rail, are required to meet ADA regulations for accessibility and are inspected by FTA for compliance as a condition of federal funding. DOT's [Reasonable Modification Rule](#), which went into effect last week, clarifies that public transportation providers are required to make reasonable modifications to their policies, practices and procedures to ensure programs and services are accessible.

While the rail transit industry has ensured compliance with an ADA requirement that at least one car per train is accessible, many transit systems struggle to retrofit older, often space-constrained stations.

◆We need to do more to ensure that people with disabilities have reliable access to public transportation, which is why we are seeking additional investments in our nation's transportation infrastructure,◆ McMillan said. ◆Older stations remain challenging for people in wheelchairs to traverse, and elevators frequently go out of service, leaving them with few or no options.◆

FTA supports transit agencies nationwide through a combination of annual formula funds and grants for transit projects. Montgomery County's bus program receives approximately \$10 million a year through FTA's Urbanized Area Formula Grant program.

As part of the celebration of ADA-25, the Department of Transportation is co-hosting an ADA: 25 Years of Disability Civil Rights [exhibit](#) at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History that demonstrates accessibility at home, in the workplace and in transportation. The exhibit will run Friday-Sunday on the National Mall behind the American History Museum as part of a slate of ADA-25 commemorative activities.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$20 Million to Improve Passenger Ferry Boats, Terminals and Equipment



8/3/2015

**Contact: Sarah Clements
202-366-3062**

WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced that \$20 million in competitive grant funds will be made available for passenger ferry projects in urban areas. The grants will help enhance ferry services for thousands of riders who live in communities along the nation's waterways by funding ferry construction and improvements to terminals and equipment. A Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) appears in today's [Federal Register](#).

♦ Passenger ferries are a vital link in our nation's transportation network, connecting people with jobs, education and other important opportunities, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ These funds represent a core investment in the revitalization and improvement of public ferry systems ♦ a transportation link that provides an important ladder of opportunity to hard-working families. ♦

FTA will award the grants based on factors such as the age and condition of existing ferry boats, terminals and related infrastructure; benefits to riders, such as increased reliability; project readiness; and connectivity to other modes of transportation.

♦ We know that for many waterside communities, getting across the river, the bay or other waterway is essential for getting to work, school, the doctor, and even the grocery store, ♦ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ♦ Ferry services are crucial in these communities, and we must ensure that they are safe, modern and able to serve all of the people who depend on them. ♦

The FTA administers these ferry grant funds through its Discretionary Passenger Ferry Grant Program. Grant funds may be used to buy, replace or rehabilitate ferries, terminals and related equipment. Last year, U.S. DOT awarded ferry grants under this program for projects to support refurbishing dock landing areas, establishing a new ferry service for commuters to a military installation and modernizing a ferry terminal that serves one million people annually.

The current transportation funding authorization, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), authorized this ferry grant program to provide funding on a competitive basis to public ferry systems in urbanized areas. These ferry grants are funded through the fiscal year 2015 Urbanized Area Formula Grants program. While the NOFA specifies that \$20 million is currently available, the NOFA further states that additional funding may be provided if such funding is later made available to the FTA for this program. Those eligible to apply for these ferry grants include designated recipients and eligible direct recipients of FTA's Urbanized Area Formula Grant program that are operating public ferry systems.

###

FTA Publishes Final Interim Policy Guidance for the Capital Investment Grant Program



8/7/2015

202-366-3062

FTA Publishes Final Interim Policy Guidance for the Capital Investment Grant Program. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently published a [Federal Register](#) notice announcing new Final Interim Policy Guidance for the Capital Investment Grant Program (CIG). The guidance describes how FTA evaluates and rates major new transit capital projects whose sponsors are seeking funding in the CIG program. This interim policy guidance complements FTA's regulations that govern the CIG program by providing a deeper level of detail about the project justification and local financial commitment criteria FTA uses to rate and evaluate New Starts, Small Starts, and Core Capacity Improvement projects and the steps a project sponsor must follow in developing a project. The full interim guidance is available [here](#) on the FTA website. Contact: Sarah Clements Tel: 202-366-3062

###

Federal Transit Administration Announces Proposed Rule to Establish New Safety Program for Transit Industry



8/14/2015

**Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669**

WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced a [proposed rule](#) to establish a Public Transportation Safety Program under FTA's new safety oversight authority established by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). The proposed rule would create an overall framework for FTA to monitor, oversee and enforce safety in the public transit industry, and is based on the principles and practices of Safety Management Systems (SMS).

♦ Every day, millions of Americans take public transportation to get to work, school, medical appointments, and other important destinations, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ This new program will help us ensure that transit continues to be a safe way to get around, and a safe place to work. ♦

The proposed rule would implement FTA's authority to conduct inspections, audits, and examinations; testing of equipment, facilities, rolling stock, and the operations of a public transit systems; and for FTA to take appropriate enforcement actions, including directing the use or withholding of Federal funds and issuing directives and advisories. The rule

would establish [SMS](#) as the foundation for FTA's safety program, which focuses on organization-wide safety policy and accountability, proactive hazard identification, and risk-based decision-making.

The proposed rule also defines the contents of a National Public Transportation Safety Plan (National Safety Plan), which FTA expects to publish in a separate Federal Register notice for public review and comment in the next several months. The National Plan will include safety performance criteria for all modes of public transportation, minimum safety performance standards for transit vehicles used in revenue operations, the definition of state of good repair, a Safety Certification Training Program, and other content determined by FTA.

With transit ridership at its highest levels in generations, and our nation's transit agencies facing increased pressure to meet the demand for service, we must continue to ensure that safety remains the top priority, said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. This rulemaking is a major step forward in establishing FTA's safety regulatory framework, as all future safety-related rules, regulations and guidance will be informed by the Public Transportation Safety Program.

Public [comments](#) on the proposed rule must be received by October 13, 2015.

Earlier this year, FTA announced a [proposed rule to increase oversight responsibilities of State Safety Oversight Agencies \(SSOAs\)](#) for rail transit systems, and the publication of a final interim safety certification training program. By early 2016, FTA expects to issue a final SSOA rule, as well as a notice of proposed rulemaking to establish permanent training provisions.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Celebrates Opening of Sacramento Light Rail Extension, Expanding Transit Options in California's Capital Region



8/24/2015

**Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669**

SACRAMENTO ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today celebrated the opening of Sacramento's Blue Line light rail extension to Cosumnes River College (CRC), which will significantly improve transit options for residents traveling between downtown Sacramento and the growing South Sacramento corridor. FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan was joined at a grand opening by Congresswoman Doris Matsui, Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) representatives, and state and local officials.

♦ Sacramento's new light rail extension will improve access to jobs, education and other important ladders of opportunity for thousands of area residents, including CRC students, faculty and staff, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ The Obama Administration is proud to support projects like this one that spur new economic development, reduce congestion and offer new travel options that will meet the needs of a growing population. ♦

The expansion offers local commuters an alternative to congested Highway 99 and brings new transit service to the area's major employers. It will

also encourage new retail and residential development in specially zoned areas along the light rail line.

◆California◆s capital region needs and deserves a robust public transportation network that connects residents to employment opportunities downtown, as well as South Sacramento, and other destinations throughout Sacramento County,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator McMillan. ◆With continued population growth expected in the coming decades, Sacramento◆s expanded light rail system will bring much-needed world class transit options to this growing region.◆

The project extends Blue Line light rail service 4.3 miles from Meadowview Road to Cosumnes River College and includes new stations at Franklin Boulevard, Center Parkway and the college, and a new park-and-ride lot. The Sacramento Regional Transit District estimates the extension will provide approximately 2,800 trips in addition to existing average weekday light rail ridership, which is approximately 39,400.

The Federal Transit Administration contributed \$135 million toward the \$270 million total project cost through its Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Program, and an additional \$7.1 million in other DOT funds. The remaining cost was covered by state and local funding.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx Announces \$9.5 Million in Workforce Development Grants to Promote Careers in Transit, Ladders of Opportunity



8/25/2015

**Contact: Ben Lockshin
202-366-8061**

LOS ANGELES ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx today announced \$9.5 million in grants to 19 projects in 13 states selected to help train a new generation of skilled workers and support long-term careers in the public transportation industry. The announcement was made at the Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC), and the grants are provided through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Innovative Public Transportation Workforce Development program.

♦The public transit industry offers good-paying careers that can lift Americans into the middle class or help them stay there, and more of these careers will be available in the future, ♦ said Secretary Foxx. ♦These grants will help us overcome skills gaps and provide more young people with the training, apprenticeships, and educational opportunities they need to gain entry into these careers. ♦

Yesterday, the U.S. Departments of Transportation, Education, and Labor today released a joint report entitled ♦ [*Strengthening Skills Training and Career Pathways across the Transportation Industry*](#). ♦ The report details

the future growth areas or employment ♦ hot spots ♦ in transportation by industry subsectors, occupations, career areas, and geographic areas.

Secretary Foxx was joined by FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan, executives from LATTC, Community Career Development, Inc. (CCD), the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), and state and local officials. Students from LATTC ♦ s Transportation Technologies program were also on hand to speak about their experiences and demonstrate the skills they have learned at LATTC.

♦ The demand for skilled transit workers will continue to grow as new projects are planned, built, and come on line and as ridership continues to expand in cities like Los Angeles and other communities across the country, ♦ said FTA Acting Administrator McMillan. ♦ And we are committed to making careers in transit a real ladder to opportunity by helping provide education and financial security, especially for those in disadvantaged communities. ♦

Two organizations in Los Angeles were selected in this latest round of FTA workforce development grants: LATTC will receive funding to establish the Institute for Advanced Transportation Technology Training ♦ the first program of its kind in a community college in the country; and CCD will receive funding for its Moving Employees into Transit Related Opportunities (METRO) program, which will partner with organizations like LA Valley College to recruit and train low-income individuals, women, veterans, minorities, and others from communities throughout Metropolitan Los Angeles.

FTA ♦ s workforce development projects will develop or expand strategic partnerships with transit agencies, labor unions, nonprofits, and academic institutions, and some will also support small businesses in the transit sector owned by women and minorities. In addition, several projects will serve as scalable models that can be applied to future projects throughout the United States.

Among the projects selected nationwide:

- The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) will receive funding for the Career Pathways Program, which will address all aspects of the transit workforce by leveraging partnerships with Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland State University, and El Barrio Workforce Development Center.
- Intercity Transit in Olympia, WA, will receive funding for its innovative Village Vans program, which aims to serve as a national model for rural transit agencies with large service areas. Like many rural agencies, Intercity Transit relies on volunteer drivers to meet its

operational needs, and Village Vans provides volunteers free workforce training that prepares them for potential employment with Intercity Transit or other positions related to vehicle operations.

- The Grand Gateway Economic Development Association in Northeast Oklahoma will receive funding to establish the N2N Automotive University. This program will identify and train participants, including those from impoverished Native American communities, in automotive repair skills that can be applied to transit vehicles as well as a range of automotive careers. This project will use an innovative Nation-to-Nation (N2N) recruitment strategy.

Eligible applicants included public transportation providers at the state, local, and regional level, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Native American tribes, non-profit institutions, and institutions of higher education. [A list of selected projects is available online.](#)

Demand for FTA's workforce grants far exceeded available funds, as FTA received a total of 50 applications requesting over \$27 million. The Obama Administration's GROW AMERICA Act would provide \$478 billion over the next six years to help build the transportation workforce of the future, providing consistent long-term funding for transportation and infrastructure.

These grants come at a crucial time in the transportation industry. According to the Strengthening Skills Training report, employers will need to hire and train a total of 4.6 million new workers ♦ 1.2 times the current transportation workforce ♦ due to expected growth, retirements, and turnover in the transportation industry from 2012 to 2022.

It is projected that 417,000 of these positions will be created as a direct result to increased demand on our transportation systems, and the highest percentage of these jobs will be in transit and ground passenger transportation.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$38.5 Million for New Bus Rapid Transit Service in Clark County, Washington



9/10/2015

**Contact: Ben Lockshin
202-366-8061**

VANCOUVER, Wash. ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced \$38.5 million in federal funding toward a new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in Clark County. The new BRT system, called the Vine, will offer faster, more convenient service for thousands of transit riders on the heavily-traveled 4th Plain Boulevard and Fort Vancouver Way corridors.

♦ Bus rapid transit is a proven and effective way to relieve congestion, improve service, and stimulate economic growth, especially in fast-growing communities like Clark County, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ Through common-sense solutions like the Rapid Growth Area Transit Program, included in our GROW AMERICA proposal, reliable, long-term funding would be provided for BRT and other essential transportation projects around the country. ♦

Therese McMillan, Acting Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration, was joined at Clark College by Vancouver Mayor Tim Leavitt, C-Tran General Manager Jeff Hamm, Clark College President Robert Knight, and other local officials and community members.

The Vine system will use ten new, 60-foot buses, which will nearly double the passenger capacity of current bus routes. In addition, the buses will be served by new stations designed to make boarding quicker and easier, especially for the elderly and those with disabilities. Along with faster and simpler boarding, other enhancements such as signal priority technology will result in significant time savings on the Vine's route compared to current bus service.

◆We are proud to support the Vine, which will bring efficient, affordable rapid transit to Clark County,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator McMillan. ◆This project will encourage growth and development in downtown Vancouver, as well as transform the way people get to major employment and education centers like Clark College and the Veterans◆ Administration Hospital.◆

With the opening of the Vine, bus ridership in the corridor is expected to increase to 5,800 average weekday trips. The rapid bus will run every 10 minutes during rush hour and every 15 minutes during off-peak times. Downtown Vine stations will also connect to a cross-river shuttle, linking to Portland's MAX light rail system.

The U.S. Department of Transportation is contributing approximately \$42.5 million in federal funding for the project, including \$10.7 million in Small Starts funding, \$27.8 million in Bus and Bus Facilities funding, and \$4,000,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding. The total cost of the project is \$53,120,000, the remainder of which is covered by the State of Washington, C-Tran, and the City of Vancouver.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$77 Million to Expand Bus Rapid Transit Service in Eugene, Oregon



9/11/2015

**Contact: Steven Taubenkibel
202-366-0431**

Eugene, Ore. ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation♦s (USDOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced the award of \$77 million in federal grant funds to expand the Lane Transit District♦s (LTD) West Eugene Emerald Express (EmX) bus rapid transit line. Acting FTA Administrator Therese McMillan participated in a ceremony to award the funds with Eugene City Mayor Kitty Piercy, Oregon Department of Transportation Director Matthew Garrett, Lane Transit District Board President Gary Wildish and other state and local officials.

♦Delivering vital transportation options to residents of Eugene, Oregon is crucial to improving the quality of life in the state♦s second-largest city,♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦Throughout the United States, we are investing in projects like this one that help improve mobility on our roadways while improving access to jobs, education, medical care, and other important ladders of opportunity.♦

The nine mile extension will improve access to employment, education and medical facilities in downtown Eugene, Springfield and the Gateway area in North Springfield, including major destinations such as the University of Oregon and the Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend. When

completed, the EmX project will expand the existing network by 60 percent, from 15 to 24 round-trip miles providing fast and frequent service to connect 52,000 residents who live along the corridor with 81,500 jobs that are located within ½ mile of the route.

◆The Federal Transit Administration is proud to partner with the Lane Transit District to expand bus rapid transit service in Eugene which is an important part of the region's commitment to expand and modernize public transportation for hard-working families,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator McMillan. ◆This new BRT line will make a huge difference for thousands of commuters who need and deserve reliable transit service.◆

The EmX project will include the construction of 26 new stations along the route with seven new hybrid-electric buses, real-time bus arrival information, pre-pay fare collection and transit signal priority.

FTA is contributing \$75 million in funding to Lane Transit District through FTA's Capital Investment Grant Program. FTA's Small Starts grant comprises approximately 78 percent of the project's total cost of \$96.5 million. The project also received approximately \$2 million in other funds from the USDOT. The remaining cost is being covered by the state of Oregon. The extension is expected to be completed by fall 2017.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Celebrates Opening of MAX Orange Line, Expanding Transit Options in Portland, Oregon



9/12/2015

**Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669**

PORTLAND, Ore. ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today celebrated the opening of the Portland-Milwaukie light rail project, otherwise known as the MAX Orange Line. The new service will significantly expand transit options and create easier commutes for thousands of residents traveling between downtown Portland and the Milwaukie suburbs. FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan was joined at a grand opening event by Congressional, state and local elected officials, as well as representatives from the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet).

♦ Portland's commitment to public transportation and its visionary light rail and streetcar services have made it one of the most livable, sustainable and economically vibrant cities in America, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ The Obama Administration is proud to partner with Oregon, TriMet and all of the local project partners to expand light rail service and bring more transportation options to residents throughout the region, improving access to jobs and educational institutions. ♦

The 7.3-mile expansion of light rail service includes Tilikum Crossing ♦ the only multimodal bridge of its kind in the country ♦ dedicated exclusively to

carrying MAX light rail trains, buses, streetcars, bicyclists and pedestrians across the Willamette River. The bridge will provide a direct link to important destinations such as Portland's South Waterfront area, home to Oregon Health Sciences University Waterfront Campus, Portland's Aerial Tram, and Portland State University, and the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

◆The MAX Orange Line will make a huge difference in the quality of life for thousands of people in the greater Portland area, offering a one-of-a-kind, world-class travel option between north Clackamas County and downtown Portland,◆ said Acting Administrator McMillan. ◆This project demonstrates the power of public transportation to help transform a major American city and bring 21st century transportation options to a growing population and future generations.◆

According to TriMet, the new light rail line is expected to provide 22,800 average weekday trips by 2030. In addition to Tilikum Crossing, the project included construction of 10 new light rail stations, two park-and ride-facilities, an expanded maintenance facility, and procurement of 18 new light rail vehicles manufactured by Siemens Transportation Systems and made in the U.S.A.

FTA contributed \$745.2 million for the Portland-Milwaukie light rail extension through its Capital Investment Grant Program, covering half of the total project cost of \$1.49 billion. The remaining cost was covered by state and local sources.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$19.5 Million to Improve Transit Access in Selected Communities Around the Country



9/14/2015

**Contact: Sarah Clements
202-366-3062**

TACOMA, WA. ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced that 21 organizations around the country will receive a share of \$19.5 million in grants to support comprehensive planning projects that improve access to public transit. The funds are made available through FTA's Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Pilot Program for communities that are developing new or improved mass transit systems. A list of selected projects is available [online](#) and in the [Federal Register](#).

♦Our nation's transportation demands have exceeded our capacity, causing millions of Americans to lose precious time stuck on congested roads and transit systems, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦By investing in transit planned around housing, jobs and services, these communities are creating ladders of opportunity for their citizens and laying a strong foundation for economic development that our growing nation demands. ♦

FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan announced the grants in Tacoma, Washington, home of Sound Transit, one of the grant recipients.

She was joined at the announcement by Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland, city council representatives and other local officials.

◆ Transit-oriented development is critical to the success of new projects and to the economy of the local communities they serve,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator McMillan. ◆ These grants will help communities like Tacoma develop a transportation system that encourages people to use transit to reach jobs, education, medical care, housing and other vital services that they need.◆

Sound Transit, in partnership with the City of Tacoma, will receive \$2 million in FTA funding to support the development of a mobility and economic development plan for communities along the proposed Tacoma Link expansion, a 2.4-mile extension of the Tacoma Link light rail line.

In total, FTA◆s TOD Pilot Program will provide grants for comprehensive planning work in 17 metropolitan areas around the country, helping communities integrate their land-use and transportation planning efforts as they improve their transit systems.

Among the planning projects selected nationwide:

- The Utah Transit Authority (UTA) will receive \$250,500 to work with the cities of Provo and Orem and other partners to analyze land use, markets, housing and essential service conditions along the corridor where the Provo-Orem Bus Rapid Transit line is being planned. The planning project also includes financial, regulatory, parking and development review strategies to promote transit-oriented development in the corridor.
- The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) will receive approximately \$1.1 million to work with local partners to develop a toolkit of policy and regulatory changes to encourage transit-oriented development in the areas surrounding the planned Downtown Riverfront Streetcar project. The toolkit will include updated plans and guidelines for areas along the streetcar route, updated zoning codes that encourage transit-oriented development, an infrastructure assessment, and an analysis of affordable housing.
- GoTriangle (formerly Triangle Transit) in Durham, North Carolina, will receive approximately \$1.7 million to support its efforts to implement transit-oriented development along the Durham-Orange Light Rail project, a light rail line that the agency is developing between Durham and Chapel Hill. This includes working with the City of Durham and the Town of Chapel Hill to educate the community about the benefits of transit-oriented development, conducting an economic analysis of the corridor and each station area, generating

affordable housing strategies, and creating zoning and regulatory tools that support transit-oriented development.

FTA's TOD Pilot Program was established under the current transportation funding authorization, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). To be eligible for the Pilot Program, the planning work must be associated with a transit project for which the local community intends to seek funding through FTA's Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program. The CIG Program is FTA's primary grant program for funding major transit capital investments, including rapid rail, light rail, bus rapid transit and core capacity projects.

Earlier this year, the Obama Administration announced a new proposal for transportation funding, the GROW AMERICA Act, which would make critical investments in transit and other infrastructure needed to promote long-term economic growth, enhance safety and efficiency, and support jobs for the 21st century.

###

FTA Approves WMATA Corrective Action Plan to Address Safety Issues, Urges Unwavering Focus on Effective Implementation



9/24/2015

**Contact: Steven Kulm
202-366-9260**

WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced [approval](#) of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) [corrective action plan](#) to improve the safety of its Metrorail and Metrobus systems as required by an FTA Safety Directive. FTA now calls on WMATA to provide unwavering focus and attention to effectively implement the plan and better provide the level of safety its passengers and workers deserve.

♦ WMATA must demonstrate a renewed commitment to set a higher standard of safety for its riders and employees, ♦ said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx. ♦ This plan is an opportunity for WMATA to make lasting changes and restore public confidence in its system. ♦

Using the new safety oversight authorities established under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act of 2012 (MAP-21), FTA conducted a [Safety Management Inspection](#) (SMI) in the spring of 2015 and evaluated WMATA's operations and maintenance programs, safety management capabilities, and organizational structures to assess compliance with WMATA's own procedures and rules, federal regulations and FTA Safety Advisories. The SMI revealed several areas of organizational deficiency and operational concerns and included 54 safety findings, 44 for Metrorail and 10 for Metrobus.

In June 2015, FTA issued a [Safety Directive](#) to WMATA detailing 91 required actions to address the safety concerns identified by the SMI, including 78 actions to be completed by Metrorail and 13 by Metrobus. The Safety Directive also directed WMATA to submit for FTA approval a corrective action plan to address each of the required actions.

♦ It is critical that WMATA effectively implement its corrective action plan, ♦ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ♦ And on a broader scale, to truly manage its safety risk on an ongoing basis, WMATA must demonstrate strong and consistent leadership, combined with a strong safety culture throughout its organization. ♦

McMillan stressed that the WMATA board of directors and its management team must closely monitor the time and resources made available to carry out this corrective action plan, particularly for those items related to the Rail Operations Control Center, employee safety training, and system maintenance, including increasing track time for maintenance work.

The FTA will closely track and monitor WMATA's implementation progress. A required action will be closed only after WMATA has met related performance measures and FTA can verify that WMATA has demonstrated its successful implementation. In addition, FTA will consult with WMATA's State Safety Oversight Agency, the Tri-State Oversight Committee, before closing required actions related to Metrorail.

Under the approved plan submitted by WMATA, most of the 91 required actions will be completed during the 2015-2017 time period, with a few actions extending into 2019.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$22.5 Million to Put More Low and No-Emission Vehicles into Service Across America



9/25/2015

**Contact: Ben Lockshin
202-366-8061**

WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is announcing the availability of \$22.5 million through the latest round of the Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Program (LoNo) that will help deploy the next generation of energy-efficient vehicles nationwide. The funds are intended to encourage adoption of green technologies in transit buses, such as hydrogen fuel cells and electric and hybrid engines.

♦ These grants will help ensure that the future of mass transit is energy-efficient and friendly to the environment, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ This funding will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and support the growing sustainable energy industry in the United States. ♦

The FTA's Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Program was established under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). It focuses on commercializing the cleanest and most energy-efficient U.S.-made transit buses to help reduce emissions like carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. The LoNo program builds on the success of FTA's National Fuel Cell Bus Program, which invested in the research,

development and testing of alternative fuels and related equipment for the transit industry.

A Notice of Funding Availability for the FTA LoNo Program can be found in [the Federal Register](#). The previous round of LoNo funding, announced in February 2015, awarded \$55 million in grants to [ten organizations nationwide](#).

◆The LoNo program has helped deploy environmentally-sound, technologically-advanced vehicles across the country, providing a better riding experience for passengers and improving public health,◆ said Acting FTA Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆By reducing fuel and maintenance costs, these modern vehicles are a great public investment ◆ saving taxpayer money in the long run while powering innovative American enterprises.◆

FTA will award the LoNo funds on a competitive basis to transit agencies and state transportation departments working either independently or jointly with bus manufacturers already making low- and zero-emission buses. Priority will be given to proposals that, among other criteria:

- Use tested bus models with proven effectiveness, especially zero-emission models;
- Exhibit strong transit agency and community commitment, including technical and project management skills; and
- Demonstrate understanding of and accommodation for public safety.

In addition, all LoNo procurements will have to follow FTA [Buy America](#) regulations and undergo [Bus Testing](#) at FTA◆s facility in Altoona, Pa.

Of the \$22.5 million available in LoNo grant funds, a minimum of \$3.0 million is available to support facilities and related equipment. Transit agencies may also use a portion of their annual FTA formula funds to purchase additional vehicles.

In addition to their environmental benefits, LoNo transit buses will, in the long run, help transit agencies save money on fuel and maintenance costs. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, zero-emission buses can achieve up to 87% greater fuel economy compared to buses running on diesel and other fuels.

###

FTA Announces \$93.4 Million Grant Agreement to Expand Sunrail in Central Florida



9/28/2015

**Contact: Steven Taubenkibel
(202) 308-2552**

KISSIMMEE, Fla. ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation ♦s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced a \$93.4 million federal grant agreement to extend SunRail commuter rail service 17.2 miles from Southern Orlando to Osceola County. The extension will provide faster and more efficient travel to jobs and cultural and retail destinations in downtown Orlando and throughout Central Florida. FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan made the announcement during a ceremony to commit the funds with House Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets Chairman John Mica, Representative Alan Grayson, Representative Corrine Brown, Representative Daniel Webster, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, representatives from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), SunRail, and other officials.

♦ Projects like Central Florida ♦s SunRail commuter rail system not only create jobs as they are built, but help connect area residents with ladders of opportunity through improved access to work and school, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ We will continue to support important projects like this that provide 21st century transportation options designed to meet the needs of Central Florida ♦s growing population. ♦

The 17.2-mile Phase II South commuter rail line extension will extend service from south of Orlando through Kissimmee to Poinciana in Osceola County. The project will improve transit service to regional employment, entertainment, cultural and retail destinations, including the Orlando Central Business District, and through transit connections to the Orlando International Airport, Disney World, SeaWorld, Universal Studios, and the Lake Nona mixed-use commercial community.

◆We applaud Central Florida◆s vision and support for a safe, efficient and connected transportation network that gives more than two million residents a convenient and reliable alternative to traffic congestion on Interstate 4,◆ said Acting Administrator McMillan.◆SunRail will connect residents from Orange and Osceola counties with the jobs and services they need, while removing barriers to success throughout the region.◆

Today◆s Full Funding Grant Agreement commits \$93.4 million in funding from FTA◆s Capital Investment Grant Program. The funding amount represents roughly half of the project◆s \$186.9 million estimated total cost. The remaining costs are covered by the State of Florida and Orange and Osceola counties in Florida.

SunRail estimates the new extended line will provide approximately 2,000 daily linked trips when the extension opens in 2019. The project will include four new commuter rail stations (Meadow Woods in Orange County; and Osceola Parkway, Kissimmee Amtrak, and Poinciana in Osceola County), the purchase of two locomotives and four passenger cars, and the construction of a vehicle storage and maintenance facility.

###

Federal Transit Administration Issues Proposed Rule for Transit Agencies to Achieve State of Good Repair, Improve Safety



9/30/2015

**Contact: Steven Kulm
202-366-9260**

WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today issued a [proposed rule](#) that would require public transportation agencies to monitor and manage their capital assets to achieve and maintain a state of good repair. Identifying and prioritizing maintenance and repair needs of transit vehicles and infrastructure could lower costs, increase reliability and performance, reduce travel delays for passengers, promote resilience, and yield system safety improvements.

♦ Transit ridership is rising, public transportation equipment and infrastructure are aging, and there is a growing backlog of transit-related capital maintenance needs with limited funding available, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ Better and more efficient management of transit assets is a smart way to get more from our investments while ensuring we maintain the safe, reliable and accessible transit service the American public deserves. ♦

The proposed rule would require public transportation agencies to develop a Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan that determines the condition of its capital assets, including the system's equipment, rolling stock, infrastructure, and facilities. To reduce the burden on small operators, the proposed rule offers a two-tiered approach for the TAM Plan requirement. Small transit providers operating 100 or fewer vehicles in revenue service and no rail fixed-guideway service and all subrecipients under the Rural Area Formula Program would be allowed to participate in a Group TAM Plan that would be developed by a State or other direct recipient of FTA funding.

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) directs FTA to create a TAM System to help transit agencies achieve a better and more informed balance between system preservation and expansion projects, with a strong focus on improving safety. The TAM System is intended to provide a transit agency with a comprehensive understanding of how the condition of its capital assets may impact the safety of its system.

◆ Strategic and targeted investments to replace and rehabilitate aging transit infrastructure are needed to bring the Nation's bus and rail systems into a state of good repair, ◆ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆ Given the diversity of transit systems, from complex urban networks to small operators in rural communities, the proposed rule offers a flexible approach for public transportation providers to better manage and maintain their assets. ◆

The proposed rule would also define the term ◆ state of good repair, ◆ establish state of good repair performance measures, and have transit agencies set performance targets based on those measures, which they can then use to prioritize limited capital investment funding. In addition, transit agencies would be required to report new information to the National Transit Database.

Insufficient funding combined with inadequate asset management practices have contributed to an estimated \$86 billion transit in state of good repair backlogs nationwide that continues to grow with reduced levels of investment. To address this need, the Administration's multi-year transportation funding bill, the [GROW AMERICA Act](#), proposes a total of \$7.6 billion in fiscal year 2016 to support FTA's state of good repair efforts, with incremental increases in each fiscal year through the end of the Act's authorization period.

Public comments on the proposed rule are accepted through Nov. 30, 2015.

###

FTA Accepts Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS) Reports on Fatigue Management and Worker Assaults



10/2/2015

Contact: Steve Kulm

202-366-9260

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has recently accepted two reports from [TRACS](#), a safety committee established by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and comprised of transit industry stakeholders.

In [*Establishing a Fatigue Management Program for the Bus and Rail Industry*](#), the report identifies the major organizational and behavioral challenges that may be faced in addressing transit employee fatigue and recommends components of a successful fatigue management program.

In [*Preventing and Mitigating Transit Worker Assaults in the Bus and Transit Industry*](#), the report discusses the risks and impediments to a safe workplace and recommends a process and measures to reduce the hazards that enable these assaults. FTA will review the recommendations from both reports as it considers possible future action on these safety issues.

###

Federal Transit Administration Issues Guidance to Public Transportation Agencies on Implementing Americans with Disabilities Act



10/5/2015

**Contact: Valerie Berton
202-366-2581**

WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today published [detailed guidance](#) to transit agencies on how to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Since the ADA became law in 1990, FTA has ensured that transit systems comply with the ADA's provisions on public transportation, primarily through education and investigations of possible violations. To enhance understanding of the Act, the new circular offers a user-friendly, one-stop resource on its requirements.

♦ We have made great progress in advancing accessible public transportation, but we still have work to do, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx. ♦ We must ensure that Americans of all ages and abilities can access our nation's transportation system. Today's guidance reinforces

our commitment to full implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. ♦

Public transit ridership increased 25 percent over the last 20 years, including a rise in the number of passengers with disabilities, according to DOT's [Beyond Traffic](#) report. Transit agencies have made major capital investments to make nearly all of America's busiest public transit stations accessible. Today, nearly all transit buses, light rail and heavy rail vehicles are ADA accessible, as well as two-thirds of rail transit stations.

♦One of the important jobs we do at FTA is to ensure mobility for everyone, and this ADA Circular will help do just that, ♦ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ♦For people of all abilities and ages, public transportation provides a lifeline to jobs, education and medical care. We need to maintain these ladders of opportunity for all. ♦

With the 25th anniversary of the landmark legislation as a backdrop, the release of FTA's ADA Circular represents a major milestone in assistance to the transit community. It thoroughly explains ADA requirements for public transit, providing real-life situations as examples of good practices for the transit industry to ensure accessible services for riders. The document does not amend or supersede the DOT ADA regulations; rather, it offers explanatory scenarios and sample templates, such as a rail station checklist for new construction and alterations.

FTA developed the ADA Circular in three phases because of the breadth of the regulations. Each chapter was submitted to the public for notice and comment in the Federal Register and went through a 60-day comment period.

###

FTA Announces New National Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Ladders of Opportunity Technical Assistance Initiative



10/9/2015

Contact: Angela Gates

202-366-3669

As a complement to the Administration's ongoing Opportunities Agenda Program, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced this week that Smart Growth America, a national nonprofit organization, has been selected to lead a team of experts to support transit-oriented development (TOD) activities that will benefit economically distressed communities across the country. In the near future, the new National TOD Ladders Technical Assistance Initiative will bring together resources and training on public transportation, transit-oriented development, land use, urban planning, affordable housing, and community-based economic development to help local governments get the most out of transit investments. Through this initiative, FTA will provide TOD technical assistance, which will include on-site visits to selected local governments, a new comprehensive website, and toll free call lines for individual assistance. FTA will make a formal announcement once the website and toll free lines are launched.

###

FTA Issues Updated Emergency Relief Program Manual for Transit Industry



10/9/2015

Contact: Steve Kulm

202-366-9260

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has published an updated reference manual on Federal emergency response assistance and disaster relief programs available to the transit industry. The revised manual is located on the FTA web site and provides transit agencies information and guidance about the FTA Emergency Relief Program, planning and preparing for disaster events, and how and when to apply to FTA or the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for disaster relief assistance. The guide also will help transit systems understand the types of response, restoration, repair, and resilience activities that are eligible for reimbursement under Federal disaster relief programs.

###

FTA Advances WMATA Metrorail Safety Oversight Measures; Regional Leaders Must Expedite New State Safety Oversight Agency



10/26/2015

**Contact: Steven Taubenkibel
202-366-0431**

WASHINGTON ♦ Today, the U.S. Department of Transportation♦s (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a [Safety Directive 16-1](#) to the Tri-State Oversight Committee (TOC) and [sent a letter](#) to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Board Chair and Interim General Manager detailing the new roles, responsibilities and reporting relationships between the organizations, signifying that this is no longer business as usual. These actions are part of FTA♦s comprehensive plan for exercising direct safety oversight of the WMATA Metrorail system.

♦We recognize the urgency of setting the transit system of our nation♦s capital in much better shape,♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦While we will work to direct Metro into a new era of safety, our actions do not remove the need for state and local leaders to govern and prove that they can successfully execute their charge to provide safe, reliable service.♦

Under Safety Directive 16-1, FTA assumes lead responsibility from the TOC for safety oversight of Metrorail, realigns the work the TOC will continue to perform at FTA♦s direction and identifies the activities for which FTA will

be primary lead to achieve compliance with current federal law and regulations related to the rail transit State Safety Oversight Program.

Specifically, FTA will ensure and verify that WMATA implements the 78 corrective actions related to Metrorail arising from [Safety Directive 15-1](#) issued by FTA in June 2015 as well as the more than 200 other corrective actions previously approved by the TOC, but still unfulfilled by WMATA, some dating as far back as 2008. In addition, FTA will conduct on-the-ground inspections of WMATA, lead accident investigations as warranted and work to close out more than 100 open accident investigation reports. FTA's role is temporary and will continue only until Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia set up a new State Safety Oversight Agency that is fully functioning.

◆ This is the strictest level of federal safety oversight ever placed on a rail transit agency, ◆ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆ Our goals are to improve Metrorail safety, direct the TOC oversight activities and assist regional leadership as they establish a new, stronger and more effective State Safety Oversight Agency to replace the TOC. ◆

In the letter to the WMATA board chair and Interim General Manager, McMillan wrote that FTA will exercise its authority to direct the use of federal funds received by WMATA to ensure that federal dollars are invested first and foremost to correct Metrorail safety deficiencies. For FY 2015, WMATA received about \$440 million in federal financial assistance.

To carry out its enhanced safety oversight responsibilities, FTA has designated one of its own well-qualified safety professionals as the Director for WMATA Safety Oversight and is assembling a robust team of multidisciplinary staff from its Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, inspectors and investigators from other DOT agencies and experienced consultants. To fund these activities FTA is using its own agency resources and will direct the use of federal State Safety Oversight program grant funding distributed to the TOC.

FTA oversight will help address the identified WMATA Metrorail safety issues. However, Secretary Foxx has emphasized that WMATA must have strong and consistent leadership combined with a strong safety culture throughout its organization. ◆ The WMATA board of directors must immediately hire a capable General Manager who is able to correct the agency's course, Foxx said. ◆ The urgency of having accountable leadership at the helm of WMATA cannot be overstated. ◆

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx Announces \$14.2 Million TIGER Grant for Milwaukee Streetcar



10/29/2015

MILWAUKEE - U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx today announced that the Department of Transportation will provide \$14.2 million to support the extension of the streetcar line in downtown Milwaukee. The project is one of 39 federally-funded transportation projects in 34 states selected to receive a total of \$500 million under the Department's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) 2015 program. U.S. Transportation Under Secretary Peter Rogoff traveled to Milwaukee for the local announcement.

The Department received 627 eligible applications from 50 states and several U.S. territories, including Tribal governments, requesting 20 times the \$500 million available for the program, or \$10.1 billion for needed transportation projects.

◆ "Transportation is always about the future. If we're just fixing today's problems, we'll fall further and further behind. We already know that a growing population and increasing freight traffic will require our system to do more," said Secretary Foxx. ◆ "In this round of TIGER, we selected projects that focus on where the country's transportation infrastructure needs to be in the future; ever safer, ever more innovative, and ever more targeted to open the floodgates of opportunity across America. ◆

The City of Milwaukee will receive funding for its Lakefront Line streetcar project, which will connect the initial segment of the Milwaukee streetcar in the downtown area to new redevelopment efforts underway along the city's lakefront. The Lakefront Line will circulate through the heart of Milwaukee's central business district and continue on to the lakefront. The line will serve a high concentration of office towers, government facilities and major employers downtown, and provide a convenient way for residents and visitors to travel from downtown to the lakefront area.

With this latest round of funding, TIGER continues to invest in transformative projects that will provide significant and measurable improvements over existing conditions. The awards recognize projects nationwide that will advance key transportation goals such as safety, innovation, and opportunity.

◆The Milwaukee Streetcar will provide a high-quality connection between the city◆s downtown business district and its lakefront area,◆ said Under Secretary Rogoff. ◆The Obama Administration is happy to support Milwaukee◆s ongoing efforts to transform its urban core by improving connectivity to important economic, recreational, and cultural resources.◆

◆We congratulate the citizens of Milwaukee, who are the true winners in obtaining these highly competitive TIGER grant funds,◆ said Federal Transit Administration Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆This project will provide a new link between downtown Milwaukee and new redevelopment efforts underway along the lakefront, as well as spur new economic development and improve transportation options for residents, commuters and visitors.◆

This is the seventh TIGER round since 2009, bringing the total grant amount to \$4.6 billion provided to 381 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, including 134 projects to support rural and tribal communities. Demand for the program has been overwhelming; to date, the Department of Transportation has received more than 6,700 applications requesting more than \$134 billion for transportation projects across the country.

The GROW AMERICA Act, the Administration◆s surface transportation legislative proposal, would keep TIGER roaring with \$7.5 billion over six years for future TIGER grants.

Click [here](#) for additional information on individual TIGER grants.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx Announces \$15 Million TIGER Grant to Improve Connectivity in South Los Angeles



10/29/2015

LOS ANGELES ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx today announced that the Department of Transportation will provide \$15 million for the Rail to Rail Active Transportation Corridor Connector Project in South Los Angeles. The project is one of 39 federally-funded transportation projects in 34 states selected to receive a total of \$500 million under the Department's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) 2015 program. U.S. Transportation Deputy Secretary Victor Mendez traveled to Los Angeles for the local announcement.

The Department received 627 eligible applications from 50 states and several U.S. territories, including Tribal governments, requesting 20 times the \$500 million available for the program, or \$10.1 billion for needed transportation projects.

♦Transportation is always about the future. If we're just fixing today's problems, we'll fall further and further behind. We already know that a growing population and increasing freight traffic will require our system to do more," said Secretary Foxx. ♦In this round of TIGER, we selected projects that focus on where the country's transportation infrastructure needs to be in the future; ever safer, ever more innovative, and ever more targeted to open the floodgates of opportunity across America.♦

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) will receive funding for an approximately 6.4-mile multi-use transportation corridor for bicyclists and pedestrians that will improve access to the Metro Blue Line, Silver Line and future Crenshaw/LAX Line. The project will connect multiple neighborhoods in historically disadvantaged communities in South Los Angeles, providing safe and attractive mobility options for residents and workers in the corridor.

♦We are excited about and proud of what you are doing here in Los Angeles. Your project will not only improve the neighborhoods it runs through, it will make the residents safer and healthier,♦ said **Deputy Secretary Mendez**. ♦We believe that these are exactly the kinds of programs that TIGER exists to support.♦

♦We congratulate the citizens of South Los Angeles, who are the true winners in obtaining these highly competitive TIGER grant funds,♦

said **Federal Transit Administration Senior Advisor Carolyn Flowers**, who joined Deputy Secretary Mendez at an event to announce the grant.

◆ This multi-use transportation corridor will provide safe and convenient access for thousands of pedestrians and bicyclists to connect to public transportation options to get to work, school, medical care, and other important destinations throughout Los Angeles County. ◆

This is the seventh TIGER round since 2009, bringing the total grant amount to \$4.6 billion provided to 381 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, including 134 projects to support rural and tribal communities. Demand for the program has been overwhelming; to date, the Department of Transportation has received more than 6,700 applications requesting more than \$134 billion for transportation projects across the country.

The GROW AMERICA Act, the Administration◆s surface transportation legislative proposal, would keep TIGER roaring with \$7.5 billion over six years for future TIGER grants.

Click [here](#) for additional information on individual TIGER grants.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$20 Million in TIGER Funds to Develop Birmingham Bus Rapid Transit System



Projects Target Future Needs in Rural and Urban Communities Nationwide



10/30/2015

**Contact: Valerie Berton
202-308-2020**

BIRMINGHAM, AL ♦ Federal Transit Administration Acting Administrator Therese McMillan today announced that the Department of Transportation will provide \$20 million in [TIGER funds](#) to support development of a 15-mile bus rapid transit system that will aid city-wide revitalization efforts in downtown Birmingham. The project is one of 39 transportation projects in 34 states selected to receive funding from the Department of Transportation's TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) 2015 program. U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced project selections for this round of TIGER grants on October 29.

The Department received 627 eligible applications from 50 states and several U.S. territories, including Tribal governments, requesting 20 times the \$500 million available for the program, or \$10.1 billion for needed transportation projects.

♦ Transportation is always about the future. If we're just fixing today's problems, we'll fall further and further behind. We already know that a

growing population and an increase in transit riders will require our system to do more," said Secretary Foxx. "In this round of TIGER, we selected projects that focus on where the country's transportation infrastructure needs to be in the future; ever safer, ever more innovative, and ever more targeted to open the floodgates of opportunity across America."

Following decades of disinvestment, Birmingham is gaining vitality and population. After residents described their traditional city bus service as inadequate and one of their top community concerns, city leaders prioritized BRT as a way to promote reinvestment and elevate low-income and minority neighborhoods. Close to half of the city's population lives within one-half mile of the proposed BRT stations, which would provide connections to 130,000 jobs in the corridor as well as the University of Alabama at Birmingham and other schools.

With this latest round of funding, TIGER continues to invest in transformative projects that will provide significant and measurable improvements over existing conditions. The awards recognize projects nationwide that will advance key transportation goals such as safety, innovation, and opportunity.

"Bringing BRT to Birmingham will enable thousands of city residents to reach the educational and employment opportunities that can improve their lives, making them the true winners in obtaining these highly competitive TIGER grant funds," McMillan said. "This project will provide state-of-the-art rapid bus service, including real-time transit information, off-board fare collection, and traffic signal prioritization, as well as streetscape improvements. We are confident that this investment will go far toward improving quality of life in Birmingham."

This is the seventh TIGER round since 2009, bringing the total grant amount to \$4.6 billion provided to 381 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, including 134 projects to support rural and tribal communities. Demand for the program has been overwhelming; to date, the Department of Transportation has received more than 6,700 applications requesting more than \$134 billion for transportation projects across the country.

The GROW AMERICA Act, the Administration's surface transportation legislative proposal, would keep TIGER roaring with \$7.5 billion over six years for future TIGER grants.

Click [here](#) for additional information on individual TIGER grants.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Modernized, Fully ADA-Compliant Wayne Junction Rail Station in Philadelphia



11/13/2015

**Contact: Steven Taubenkibel
202-308-2552**

Philadelphia, Pa. ♦ Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Acting Administrator Therese McMillan today attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly modernized Wayne Junction station ♦ a busy transit rail station in suburban Philadelphia ♦s Nicetown and Germantown neighborhoods that is part of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) system.

♦In Philadelphia and across the United States, this Administration is committed to bringing aging transit facilities like SEPTA ♦s Wayne Junction Station into a state of good repair, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦Residents in the Nicetown and Germantown neighborhoods of Philadelphia can now take advantage of a newly modernized rail station that connects people to jobs and education, while encouraging continued growth and transit oriented development. ♦

Constructed at the turn of the 20th century, the Wayne Junction transit rail station has been a fixture in North Philadelphia since it was opened by the Reading Railroad in 1881. Designed by the renowned architect Frank Furness, the station was rebuilt in 1901 but had fallen into a state of disrepair over its more than 100 years of use. The facility is considered a

major transit hub, serving more than 161,011 riders annually via six regional rail lines. Three bus routes connect the station to the surrounding community and the city of Philadelphia.

◆The modernization of the Wayne Junction transit rail station makes it more inviting for people to take the train, and that will make these neighborhoods, and others throughout metro Philadelphia, more livable and more sustainable,◆ said Acting Administrator McMillan. ◆For residents and businesses in Nicetown, the completion of this project means they will benefit from safer, more accessible and environmentally friendly access to SEPTA transportation services."

The extensive, four-year project began in fall 2011. Renovations included: making the station compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with the construction of new station platforms and new elevators and an ADA compliant egress throughout the station; upgrading power, signal and track infrastructure; restoring passenger tunnels and stairways; and improving passenger amenities including signage, lighting, the Audio Visual Public Announcement (AVPA) system; and new HVAC systems, shelters, canopies and benches.

McMillan participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with Congressman Chaka Fattah, State Senator Shirley Kitchen, State Representative Rosita Youngblood and other local elected officials.

The U.S. Department of Transportation contributed \$24.6 million toward the construction of the \$31.5 million project. Federal funds included \$3.9 million through an FTA competitive livability grant, and \$17.16 million through FTA◆s Section 5309 Fixed Guideway Modernization and 5337 State of Good Repair Programs.

###

Federal Transit Administration Kicks Off Initiative to Help Communities Develop Successful Transit-Oriented Development Projects



12/3/2015

**Contact: Valerie Berton
202-366-2581**

WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has launched a nationwide transit-oriented development (TOD) initiative to encourage development near transit systems that boosts the local economy; provides easy access to jobs and services; and creates compact, mixed-use, walkable communities. The initiative supports the Ladders of Opportunity Initiative of the President and the Secretary of Transportation.

♦ Our TOD initiative will help community leaders think about how investment in transit can bring prosperity into low- and moderate-income communities, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦ We ♦ ve seen how investment in transit can lead to new housing stock, new jobs and new economic opportunities in areas that badly need them. To achieve results, we are offering to help local leaders create sound, equitable community-sensitive development plans. ♦

The National Public Transportation [Transit-Oriented Development Technical Assistance Initiative](#) focuses on supporting communities across the country. FTA has engaged Smart Growth America (SGA) to run the technical

assistance and provide a variety of planning and analysis tools. Along with developing best practices and profiles of communities that have successfully implemented TOD, SGA will work on site with leaders in several communities to offer in-depth technical assistance tailored to local needs. The free technical assistance, which will be offered through a competitive process, will include planning for and managing economic development near transit through effective zoning and land use as well as expert advice on preserving affordable housing and securing advantageous commercial development, among other challenges.

◆ Transit-oriented development is critical to both the success of new transit projects and to the economy of the local communities they serve, ◆ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆ What ◆s particularly great about TOD is that it encourages people to use transit to reach jobs, education, medical care, housing and the other vital services they need. Our TOD initiative will help communities that are less experienced in the latest development tools and real estate market strategies to create stronger neighborhoods. ◆

The City of Richmond, one of seven cities chosen last spring to be part of [DOT ◆s LadderSTEP initiative](#) that focuses on revitalization as part of future transportation projects, will be among the first communities to receive TOD technical assistance along its planned 7.6-mile bus rapid transit line. Richmond ◆s Pulse BRT project received a \$24.9 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant in 2014.

Community leaders can apply for technical assistance at the project ◆s [website](#). The site also will assemble the best information and tools to support TOD planning and deployment as well as create a network that will provide information on funding and training opportunities, on-demand research and analysis, and peer-to-peer meetings and mentoring on topics of shared concern. Community leaders interested in learning more about the new TOD technical assistance are invited to join SGA for a December 10 [webinar](#).

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$19.1 million for Jacksonville Bus Rapid Transit Southeast Corridor Project



12/7/2015

**Contact: Steven Taubenkibel
202-366-0431**

WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced the award of approximately \$19.1 million in federal Small Starts Capital Investment Grant program funds for the Jacksonville Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Southeast Corridor Project which will provide more frequent and faster bus service to attract new riders and provide a needed transportation option in a heavily transit-dependent region.

♦When completed, Jacksonville's Southeast Corridor BRT will guarantee residents access to convenient, reliable, and efficient transportation options, which can increase access to economic opportunity, ♦ said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx.

The 11.1-mile Southeast Corridor line is the third segment of a five-phased First Coast Flyer BRT system planned for the Jacksonville area. The project will connect to the first BRT line in downtown Jacksonville, which opens today, and provide enhanced access to southeast corridor employment centers, schools, St. Luke's Hospital, retail destinations and recreational activities.

◆By expanding its BRT system, Jacksonville is building its transit future for a fast growing population and making a smart investment to support local and regional economic development,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆The Southeast Corridor project also will make a huge difference for the majority of local residents along the corridor who do not have access to automobiles and rely heavily on public transportation to get to work, school, medical care and other vital services.◆

The FTA is contributing 80 percent of the \$23.8 million total cost of the Southeast Corridor project. The remaining project costs are being covered by the Florida Department of Transportation and the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA).

The Southeast Corridor project will have five stations, transit signal priority, real-time passenger information, and off-board fare collection. It also will include the construction of a park-and-ride lot and the procurement of ten energy efficient low-floor compressed natural gas (CNG) buses.

The JTA is also seeking Capital Investment Grant program funds for two additional BRT segments◆ the 18.5-mile East Corridor, and the 12.9-mile Southwest Corridor projects. JTA estimates that the entire BRT system will cover 57 miles and cost approximately \$134.1 million.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Metrolink Commuter Rail Extension to Perris Valley, Expanding Transit Options in Southern California



12/11/2015

**Contact: Angela Gates
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PERRIS, Calif. ♦ Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Acting Administrator Therese McMillan today participated in a dedication ceremony for the 91/Perris Valley commuter rail extension from Riverside to Perris, California. The 24-mile extension of Metrolink service will reduce traffic congestion on Interstate-215 and significantly improve transit options for area residents who have some of the longest commutes in Southern California.

♦Expanding Southern California's commuter rail network is critical for connecting fast growing communities in and around Riverside County to major employment centers throughout the region, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦Across the United States, we are investing in projects like this one that offer residents convenient transportation options that improve access to jobs, education, medical care, and other ladders of opportunity. ♦

FTA Acting Administrator McMillan participated in a ceremony with State Assembly member Jose Medina, Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley, Perris Mayor Daryl Busch, and other local officials.

The 91/Perris Valley Line, constructed by the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), will serve the communities of Riverside, Moreno Valley, and Perris in a regional effort to improve connections for commuters traveling from east and south of downtown Riverside. It includes four new stations along the route at Hunter Park/UC Riverside, Moreno Valley/March Field, Downtown Perris, and South Perris. Metrolink currently serves more than 44,000 riders on weekdays, over three-quarters of whom commuted by car before adopting transit, according to the Southern California Regional Rail Authority.

◆The Federal Transit Administration is proud to help bring expanded Metrolink service to Perris, making it easier and more convenient for commuters to access employment in Los Angeles and activity centers in western Riverside County,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator McMillan. ◆This extension will make a big difference in the quality of life for residents who want an alternative to sitting in traffic, and it also lays a strong foundation for economic development along the corridor.◆

FTA provided \$75 million through its Capital Investment Grant Program to RCTC for the Metrolink extension to Perris Valley. FTA funding comprised approximately 30 percent of the project◆s total cost of \$248 million. The project also received approximately \$63 million in other funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The remaining cost was covered by state and local sources.

Linking Southern California through projects like Metrolink will be critical for accommodating growth to the larger megaregion, which is expected to increase by 15 million new Americans over the 2010 to 2050 period. This growth will anchor the region◆s increased role as a global gateway.

The Metrolink 91/Perris Valley Line is expected to open in early 2016. RCTC anticipates approximately 4,300 additional riders will use the service on an average weekday.

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U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$10 Million to Improve Transit Options on Tribal Lands



12/14/2015

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WASHINGTON ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced the award of approximately \$10 million to help American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments initiate, improve and enhance transit service on Tribal Lands.

♦Public transportation connects people and communities to jobs, education, and healthcare, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. ♦These and other Tribal Transit grants provide funding for buses, vans and transportation planning that helps ensure that everyone can access critical services and economic opportunity. ♦

The money, which is awarded through FTA's [Tribal Transit Program](#), will provide grants to 55 tribes for 65 competitively selected transit-related projects in 18 states. The [projects](#) will receive awards from a combination of fiscal year 2014 and 2015 annual discretionary funds. Combined with about \$25 million a year in formula funds, FTA's Tribal Transit Program provides a transportation lifeline to rural tribal citizens by connecting them with employment, education, healthcare, and other vital services. Funding for Tribal Transit was increased to \$30 million under the Fixing America's

Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which was signed into law by President Obama on December 4, 2015.

◆Residents on tribal lands often face challenges finding reliable transportation to travel to the types of services that improve quality of life,◆ said FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan. ◆By helping supply affordable public transportation to American Indians, Alaskan natives and other rural residents, we create avenues for them to pursue their goals.◆

Examples of projects funded by FTA◆s FY 2014 and FY 2015 discretionary Tribal awards include:

- The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe of Washington will receive \$300,000 to initiate transit operations to serve tribal members and residents of surrounding communities in South King County to the city of Auburn, which offers transit connections to Seattle. The new service follows a feasibility study, along with a door-to-door survey in the community, supporting residents◆ need for public transportation, particularly to help residents pursue educational opportunities and secure stable jobs.
- The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma will receive \$92,500 to purchase replacement buses that run on compressed natural gas to continue providing reliable public transportation for residents to travel to jobs and services in the Oklahoma counties of Dair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, Mayes, Nowata, Ottawa, and Rogers. The service is well used. In 2014, the Cherokee Nation provided 79,776 bus rides, a 114% increase over the previous year◆s 37,296 rides.
- The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska will receive \$300,000 to build a transit facility and purchase vans to enable tribal members to take part in a vocational program and travel to Sioux City, Iowa and South Sioux City, Nebraska for jobs, education, and healthcare. The new transit facility will create a centralized office, provide space for vehicle maintenance, and house a new dispatch system.

The Federal Transit Administration reviewed 79 project applications for the Tribal Transit Program, representing more than \$19.5 million in funding requests from tribal transit providers across the country.

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